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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7TH 2016

FORMER BARRY COUNCILLOR IN NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST
Page 15

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NEW YEAR HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS
Pages 18-20

Thousands on Island for New Year swim...

QUICK DASH AND A SPLASH RAISES CASH FOR TENOVUS

Picture by Don Cook

THOUSANDS of people descended on Barry Island for the New Year's Day swim – some to take part and some to watch.

The event raised funds for Tenovus Cancer Care and was the 32nd year it had taken place.

With crowds of specators lining the promenade and others urging encouragement on the beach, the swimmers dashed for the sea at 12 noon.

Although the waters were chilly, the swimmers were fortunate that it wasn't raining and temperature out of the sea was mild.

There was a carnival atmosphere on the day and Island businesses did a roaring trade.

Lots of swimmers took part in fancy dress – and there were even some Daleks! The dozens of dogs – allowed on the beach in the winter months – enjoyed all the excitement, too.

Local photographer Don Cook took the spectacular image (above) from Friar's Point.

(For more images of the day by Andy Wicks, turn to page 6).

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Call goes out to support Conner's petition

THE parents of Conner Marshall are asking for support for their campaign to see a confidential report into their son's tragic death.

They have set up an online petition after being frustrated in their attempts to see a report into the supervision of their son's murderer.

(See page 2 for more information on this.)

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Readers' Letters

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Vale Mayor: 'give the cash to charity'

AFTER reading last week's article in The GEM about the public cost of the Mayor of the Vale, as a taxpaying resident I just have to let off some steam.

Coun Richard Bertin correctly states that the total cost in salaries, transport and hospitality is well over £100,000.

I'm aghast that this figure, in times of austerity and cutbacks, has been sanctioned by the Vale Council.

We have poor street lighting, roads with potholes everywhere, cracked pavements, and even our police station can't stay open to the public after 6pm!

The money could be far better spent within the Vale by giving it straight to charity.

Terry White,
Barry.

'Figurehead only'

BOTH my husband and I agree with the opinion of Coun Richard Bertin, especially given the figures he quotes.

The Vale Mayor is a figurehead that is not cost-effective and, in these times of austerity, the money could be put to much better use.

Mr and Mrs A Priest,
Barry.

'Sign petition for Conner' – *parents' plea*

THE parents of Conner Marshall of Barry, who was murdered by a Caerphilly man, David Braddon, in an unprovoked attack at Trecco Bay Caravan Park, Porthcawl, have asked members of the public to sign an on-line petition asking that a Probation Service report into Braddon's supervision should be published in full.

Conner's family say that a Serious Further Offence Report has identified failings in the way that Braddon was supervised.

His parents, Nadine and Richard, said: "To date we have been disallowed and unable to have access to this full report.

"Despite numerous attempts and requests to managers, directors, MPs and Government Ministers, we remain without answers and explanations as to many aspects of the case management.

"Sadly, Conner no longer has a voice, so we as his parents are committed to seeking honest, truthful answers and explanations from those who deny us this very basic need.'

Speaking on television news, Nadine Marshall said that David Braddon had been "a bomb waiting to go off".

The petition can be found by typing 'Conner Marshall petition' into a search engine.

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'Help us break down the stigma of bowel cancer'

WE would like to thank all the local men who took part in Beating Bowel Cancer's 'Decembeard' fundraising campaign, by going grizzly last month.

Decembeard, in which men ditch their razors and grow a beard throughout the month of December, is a fun way for individuals or teams to raise funds and help to increase awareness of the disease. It's simple to take part in and thousands signed up for it again last month. We'd like to thank every one of them for their support.

The many thousands of pounds they have raised in sponsorship will help the charity to support bowel cancer patients and their families and to raise awareness of the disease, its symptoms, and the need for early diagnosis.

As well as raising funds for the charity, the campaign can help to break down the stigma of talking about bowel cancer, which is the UK's second biggest cancer killer. Over 100 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer every day, yet over 90 per cent of cases can be treated successfully, if caught early.

It's vital that people become more aware of the symptoms, so they can act quickly.

If anyone has any queries or concerns about bowel cancer, there is information and advice on our website; or they can call our Nurse Helpline on 020 8973 0011.

Mark Flannagan,
CEO Beating Bowel Cancer, www.beatingbowelcancer.org.

Two events did the Island proud!

I WOULD like to say how pleasing it was to see so many people enjoying themselves at Barry Island on New Year's Day, when two events added to the normal attractions of the excellent resort – the Park Run, followed by the New Year's Day swim.

The Park Run normally takes place each Saturday morning at 9am, and is a timed 5K run for all ages which normally attracts around 100 people.

Participants range from children running with their parents, to those like myself (71 years of age), and is organised by a group of excellent volunteers who turn up week in week out, whatever the weather.

Whoever decided to put on the additional run on New Year's Day is to be commended, because over 240 runners turned up for what turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable event.

The numbers were doubtless boosted by the later start time of 10.30am, allowing additional recovery time from the excesses of the previous evening, but everyone concerned must have been pleased with the turnout.

This was followed by the traditional swim at 12 noon and I'm sure that the countless hardy individuals who braved what must have been cool water, enjoyed the experience. Certainly, the many spectators did so and may well take a dip themselves on New Year's Day 2017!

As a resident of the Vale, it was indeed gratifying to see so many families enjoying the day and pleasing to see all the cafes full to overflowing, giving the owners what was, hopefully, a welcome winter boost.

Well done to all concerned.

John Deakin,
Llantwit Major.

Good Samaritans on the beach

I WOULD like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who came to my aid when I had an accident on the beach at Whitmore Bay, a few days before Christmas.

They contacted my family, looked after my two dogs, and phoned for an ambulance. While waiting some time for it to come from Cardiff, they kept my spirits up and gave up their hats, scarves and coats to try to keep me warm, during what was a very scary time.

The phone calls I received from them later on in the evening, were also very much appreciated; as were the flowers I received.

Thankfully, nothing was broken, and I am now fully recovered.

Diolch yn fawr.

Siân Jones, Barry.

Leaky ceiling at the A&E

I WAS shocked on recently attending the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, to find the ceiling leaking in the waiting room.

Didn't the Welsh Government and the Welsh NHS recently spend millions at the University Hospital of Wales A&E? Surely, if they spent money on improving the facility, they would have first spent money on the roof?

There were buckets around the room collecting drips on New Year's day, which was not a good impression.

We must now ask – is throwing money at the NHS the answer, or is it just poor management?

Coun Richard Bertin,
Independent, Vale Council.

Spirit of Christmas?

HAVING spent time and money, with help from a friend, to erect Christmas lights on a memorial tree in our front garden and on a shrub next to our house, my wife and I were very upset when on Saturday, December 26 between 11pm and 12pm, the lights were ripped off the tree, totally broken, and left on the ground.

Would you believe it? The culprits returned on December 27 in the early evening, again while we were in, and pulled the lights off the shrub.

They must have been disturbed by our security lights, so they left the broken Christmas lights over the drive.

As pensioners, we feel very vulnerable to this kind of treatment, and are disappointed in the local youth of Llantwit Major.

Maybe, just maybe, they will come back and apologise!

G P Jones,
Llantwit Major.

Veterans' reunion visit to Cairo

OVER the years, I have arranged for many veterans' group visits to the Egyptian Canal Zone, and several of your GEM readers have joined us on these visits.

I have now stopped organising trips to the Canal Zone, but I have received many letters enquiring if it is possible to visit the war cemeteries in the Cairo area, especially Heliopolis and El-Alamein, as well as Moascar, Fayid and Tel El-Kebir.

There are at least five war cemeteries in the Cairo district, as well as the ones mentioned above, so I have decided to arrange a group visit there.

Your readers are invited to join us and if they contact me, I will send full details of itinerary and costs.

The reunion group visit is from June 1-10.

Alf Avison,
Middle East Land Forces Association, PO Box 99, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 9NS. Email: alfavison@talktalk.net; telephone 07814 832441.

'PLEASE CHEER UP MY MUM'

ON Christmas Eve, my Mum came home from hospital and sadly lost some jewellery while getting out of the car.

There was a necklace, bracelet and watch, all of which have very sentimental value and we would love to cheer her up by finding the lost items and we can offer a reward.

This happened around 5pm outside Golau Caredig, the new complex on the old Theatre Royal site, near the entrance on Broad Street.

If anyone has any information, please contact The GEM and they can let me know.

Name and address supplied.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	04.22	8.4	16.39	8.6
08 Fri	05.03	8.9	17.27	9.0
09 Sat	05.48	9.4	18.08	9.6
10 Sun	06.29	9.7	18.47	9.7
11 Mon	07.11	10.0	19.31	10.0
12 Tues	07.52	10.1	20.12	9.9
13 Wed	08.29	10.2	20.53	9.9
14 Thur	09.17	9.9	21.38	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Ecumenical Seven sing in the New Year at Dinas Powys!

ANOTHER fine New Year's Day concert held by the Ecumenical Seven thrilled the capacity audience in Dinas Powys Parish Hall.

Dr Haydn Jones leads the 'Seven'

Conducted by the indomitable Dr Haydn Jones, the band provided a wide range of musical delights. From 'Cheek to Cheek' to 'The Prayer' and 'I will follow Him,' the audience had an excellent afternoon's entertainment.

The concert also included 'Hot Stuff', Grow Old With Me' and 'Schneewalzer' and 'Berliner Luft'. The encore was the rousing 'Radetzky March'.

Guest soloist was tenor Ben Thapa, with Jane Samuel as the accompanist. Ben studied at the Guildhall School of Music before graduating from the Wales International Academy of Voice in 2013 under the tutelage of Dennis O'Neill. He is a member of the 4G musical group which tours extensively. 4G first came to prominence when they finished second in series 1 of the X Factor in 2004.

Jane is a vocal coach and has worked with Dennis O'Neil and Katherine Jenkins. Ben sang exerpts from opera and Broadway shows.

Dr Jones expressed his thanks to the many helpers who provided essential back up support. This included Keith Hatton, (lights and sound), Ritchie Craven on the door, Val Hartrey refreshments, Roy Gee on the bar and Mike Hartrey, floor manager.

In addition, the assistance of the Community Council was gratefully acknowledged.

The next major event for the Ecumenical Seven is the RNLI concert on March 17.

CF

COUNCILLORS' FEARS OVER PUPILS' SAFETY

DINAS POWYS councillors have pledged to do their best to ensure the safety of pupils attending St Andrews School. It follows the granting of controversial plans to build 18 properties at the site of the former Bryneithin Home in the village.

The building site access adjacent to the school.

Both Plaid Cymru councillors Val Hartrey and Chris Franks spoke against the proposals at the Vale Council Planning Committee.

Chris Franks said: "It was dreadful that the committee ignored the views of the adjacent St Andrew's School. The head and the chair of governors were very worried about the lack of adequate detail about the traffic arrangements.

"However, what will bewilder many residents was the action of Conservative councillors who backed Labour and supporting the building work. This was despite comments locally by Conservatives who appeared to oppose the development.

"Parents are worried about the risks posed by heavy construction plant crossing the route to the school. Everyday hundreds of pupils will need to pass these machines. The narrow access to the building site is within yards of the school entrance.

"I was also alarmed at the attitude of Coun Fred Johnson chair of the Planning Committee. He even expressed surprised when Val Hartrey and I opposed the application."

Coun Hartrey said: "At least there appeared to be some recognition by officers that the original planning conditions were inadequate. The developer will have to submit additional traffic calming measures. Also details of enclosing the site during building work will be required.

"However, as the committee did not receive anything in writing we are seeking clarity on these points."

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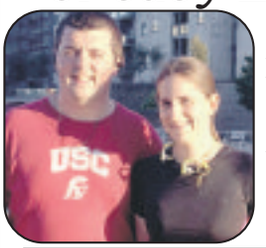
Vicars will take part in a marathon – in memory of baby Erin



Steven Bunting and Rachel Simpson are running the London Marathon in memory of a little girl called Erin.

by GEM REPORTER

TWO vicars – one from St Athan, the other from Swansea – are taking part in the London Marathon to raise funds in memory of a little girl who died from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Rachel Simpson and Steven Bunting, who are engaged, are not 'sporting addicts', but want to complete the 26 mile 385 yard course to support the Lullaby Trust.

Rachel explained: "My fiancé and I are training to run the London Marathon in April to support the Trust which helps bereaved families who have lost a child to 'Sudden Infant Death Syndrome'.

"We decided to help them after a friend lost her eight-month- old daughter Erin very suddenly.

"Since that tragic death we've become aware of a lot more families who have lost children this way, many of whom are not getting the support they need.

"Neither of us have done any running before so it is a big commitment for us, but it's also been made bigger as we have committed to raising £5,000 for the charity."

Rachel is a member of the clergy at Llantwit Major church.

She said: "As I live in St Athan and am one of the clergy in Llantwit, and my fiance lives in Swansea and is the vicar of St Thomas Church, we've been trying to hold fundraising events in both areas so that we can reach more people."

Steven said: "The Lullaby Trust is committed to supporting parents who are affected by SIDS and also funding research into the prevention of this terrible syndrome.

"We are running this in memory of Erin and for all those people affected by the loss of a child. Please give generously – we really appreciate it!

"Neither of us can particularly run – unless we are being chased by a bear! – therefore this is a fairly big deal for the both of us."

The London Marathon takes place on April 24. So far, the couple have raised £2,629, including £395 at a curry and quiz night.

If you would like to make a donation, go to the following link: http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=RachelSimpson13.

Anglers raise £3,200 for Ysgol Y Deri

SEVENTY-THREE sea anglers fished the Dow Corning/Seaview Lads charity open off Cold Knap and Porthkerry.

Conditions were awful with strong winds and rain.

The fishing wasn't much better either, only 18 anglers caught fish!

Top man was Chris Jenkins from Bridgend, with 1.82kgs; second Mickey Langford from Barry, with 1.56kgs; and third was Nigel Pudbrace of Cardiff, with 1.34kgs.

Between the anglers, Dow employees friends and family and the quizzers from the Seashore Grill, Sully (£450), a grand total of £3,200 was raised.

The money will help towards building a special climbing apparatus in Ysgol Y Deri who teach and support children with varied disabilities.

We would like to thank everybody who took part with their kind donations and support.

Here are the companies who helped out. Dow Corning, Seashore grill, Dave Bobbett, SHS, LME, Vopak, DBI, Salevon, Sea View Lads, J&E Hall, S&G, Severn, ATEC, FLT Training, Tracy Evans, PM Rees, Auto clean, C&P, VW Autos, A 2 B Taxis, Zulu Eng, Just Perfect, Tesco, Waitrose, Asda, Morrisons, CJ Travel, Ask Frank, Patrick Daley, Denis and Angela, Barry Angling, Holton Road Angling, Keens, Ewenny Angling, Treforest Tiling, Reg Aspinall, Joe Arch, Bob Radman, Dave Davey, Steve Rees, Tony Gwyther and Mike Doyle.

Thanks also to West End Labour Club, Tess, Natalie and Sian for the spread and Phil at the bookings.

On a sad note, the club would like to extend its condolences to the family of Jimmy Sugden who has sadly passed away.

He was a member for a long time and was a great help to me with the charity matches.

JOHN LITTLE

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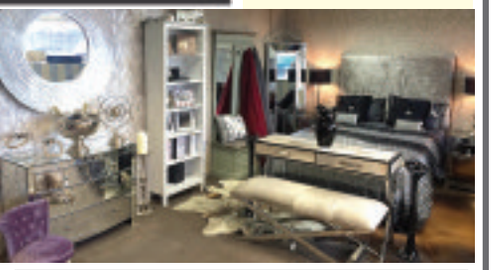

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STUDENTS SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD IN LOCAL SCHOOL WORKSHOP

BRYN HAFREN Comprehensive students attended the Show Racism the Red Card workshops recently, as part of their RE lessons.

All pupils across the year groups were given the opportunity to enter the Race Equality First calendar competition for their philosophy and religion homework. This year's theme was 'We Are All One Human Race'.

Bryn Hafren had a winner – Lauren Taylor 10KL! Lauren's poster will appear in Race Equality First's 2016 calendar.

Lauren and her family were invited to a presentation evening where the calendar was revealed and she was presented with a prize of a £50 voucher. Congratulations, Lauren!

Pupils were involved in activities and discussions about various topics, including the causes and consequences of racism, how to challenge racism, and how to develop good relationships and respect the differences between people, regardless of their ethnicity, faith, culture or nationality.

The school also held a Wear Red day and raised £118 for the Show Racism the Red Card charity.

Last week saw the annual Christmas carol concert at Bryn Hafren. It is now so popular two shows had to be scheduled in one evening to accommodate everyone!

Head of music, Mr L Green and Miss B Doyle put together a musical extravaganza assisted by the school orchestra, sixth form vocal group, staff choir and an enormous junior choir!

Over 130 pupils performed a variety of musical items including a pop mash-up, a traditional Spanish song and favourite carols. The Bryn Hafren Band Aid finale was a real showstopper that brought home the true meaning of Christmas.

Year-13 BTEC music students recently arranged their own Christmas concert. The pupils arranged to go to Orchard House, Colcot Road as part of their music in the community project. They planned and prepared the entire performance.

One resident said it was the "highlight of the festive period". The students were also able to perform to requests made and they thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Budding entrepreneurs in year-12 at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School showcased their talents by putting on a Christmas fair for pupils in the school.

Pupils had to work together in groups as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate to design a unique product that would prove popular with pupils.

Stalls made and sold items such as hot chocolate, sweets, handmade toiletries, wooden candleholders and Christmas decorations. Year-12 also held many competitions for the school's other pupils.

The event proved popular with staff and pupils. Many stalls sold out and one stall made an amazing £242! The fair raised over £700 in total. Welsh Baccalaureate staff and pupils will now decide which charities will benefit from their hard work.

SP

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRITISH COAL COKING PLANTS

DEADLINE - 24 APRIL 2016

The High Court has appointed Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell as lead solicitors in a group action for conditions associated with employment at coke works operated by British Coal. Specifically:

- respiratory disease
- lung cancer
- temporary exacerbation of asthma
- squamous cell skin cancer

A closing date for the group register has been set by the Court as 24 April 2016.

If you think you or a deceased family member may have been affected and worked in a coke fuel plant as a coke oven worker and wish to consider joining the group, please contact Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell by 24 February 2016 who will send you further information and assess whether you may be eligible to join the group and claim compensation.

If you instruct an alternative solicitor other than Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell, it is their responsibility to submit notice of any individual wishing to join the litigation to Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell.

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Vale Best Kept Village competition

More support needed to keep going in 2016

by GEM REPORTER

THE Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village competition, which was established to commemorate the coronation of the Queen in 1953, is appealing for new members and a new secretary – otherwise there is a danger it may not take place this year.

A spokeswoman explained: "Since 1953, the competition has served the villages of the Vale well, bringing communities together and promoting beautifully kept villages.

"However, over recent years fewer villages have taken part in the competition. The committee that runs the competition now needs new members and a new secretary.

"There is a danger that there will not be a competition in 2016 unless new people come forward to join the committee and take an active part in organising the competition.

"If you have an interest in village life in the Vale and can commit your enthusiasm and time to this delightful event, please come to the meeting to discuss the future of the competition and how you can join in and help.

"It will take place on January 25 at 7 pm in the council chamber, Cowbridge Town Hall."

Previously the Vale Council has provided a grant over three years but that support is now finishing and the committee believes it is unlikely to secure funding or sponsorship at the level it has received in the past.

There are sufficient resources to run the competition for another year, but the committee feels it is only worthwhile if more people are keen to help in the organisation of the event and if there is increased interest from the many villages in the Vale.

Those interested in attending the meeting can email the secretary: carole.alexander1@hotmail.co.uk for further information and to let 'Best Kept Village Competition' organisers know that they plan to attend.

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Fancy dress, fun and frolics as thousands head for Barry Island's New Year swim

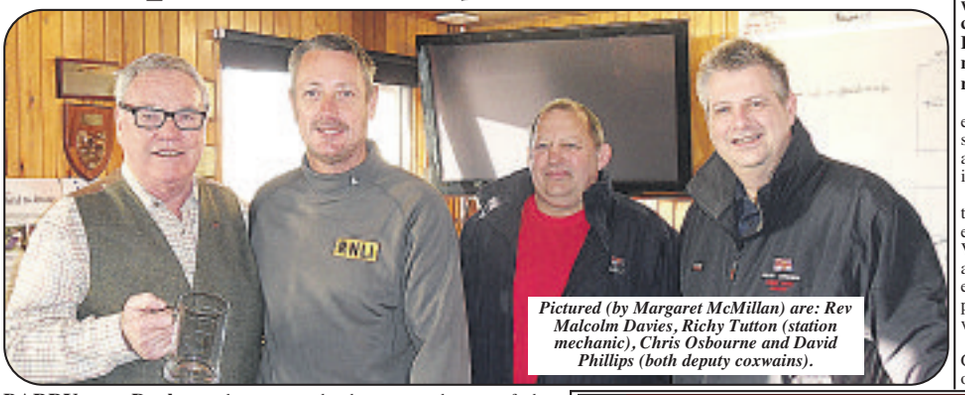
PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374478

BATMAN, superwoman, daleks, penguins – they were all there in fancy dress as people converged on Barry Island for the New Year Day swim.

Thousands of people attended – most to watch, but a hardy few to rush into the 'inviting' waves. Cue a few shrieks!

Vale photographer Andy Wicks was on hand to capture all the fun of the day.

Surprise, Surprise for the chaplain at lifeboat station!



Pictured (by Margaret McMillan) are: Rev Malcolm Davies, Richy Tutton (station mechanic), Chris Osbourne and David Phillips (both deputy coxwains).

BARRY Dock RNLI lifeboat station said a fond farewell to station chaplain, the Reverend Malcolm Davies, at a surprise gathering on New Year's eve.

He had been the station chaplain for 10 tears before his retirement in 2015, providing pastoral care to the crew and other volunteers at the station and supporting them in challenging times.

The volunteers surprised Rev Davies by revealing that the gathering was in his honour, which almost – but not quite – made the modest and well-liked chaplain speechless! He thanked the station for being a part of his life over the past 10 years. He led the station in remembrance of those no longer with us, and recalled happier times.

"My favourite act as station chaplain was to lead the christening of the coxswain's daughter on board the lifeboat, using the upturned ship's bell as a font," he recalled.

Station chairman Stuart McMillan, thanked Rev Davies for his hard work and dedication and presented him with a commemorative tankard. Stuart also welcomed Rev Kevin Lake of All Saint's Church, Barry, as the new chaplain to the station.

Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat station works alongside other RNLI stations in the UK to save an average of 24 lives every day. Over 31,500 volunteers work with the RNLI each year to achieve this amazing result.

If anyone would like to be a part of the team, either as a regular or occasional volunteer, contact Julie Sanby on 07795 306994, or jsanby@rnli.org.uk to find out more about current opportunities.

Cycle ride story!

AFTER Christmas fare and refreshments prepared and provided by Barry Men's Forum chairman Peter Westcott and his wife Diane, John Rees Davies, vice chairman welcomed Phil and Enid Bennion to share with the members, memories of their cycle ride from Verona to Salzburg.

Philip's skills at producing enchanting films of their visits, from still photography, with commentary and musical accompaniment, impressed the members.

They had flown from Cardiff with their cycles for the three-week expedition, and soon after landing at Verona were exploring the Roman amphitheatre, which is still in excellent condition and was being prepared for a concert when they visited.

After an easy ride around Lake Garda they then met the real challenge of 1 in 5 slope roads in the Dolomites, which tested their fitness to the full,

Through the Tyrol, despite reduced oxygen levels not helping and with temperatures sometimes dropping to zero, this did not spoil the beauty of the mountains and passes, which they were able to communicate to the enthralled members.

At a cafe at the top of Falzegfo Pass, they met up with members of the Tour de France in training. One tried to lift their bikes and just raised his eyes at the weight of the bikes, loaded with their equipment!

New members are welcome. Talks include: Barry history, climbing Kilimanjaro, Gurkas and moon mysteries; £2 per meeting at 10.15am – noon. The Forum meets at Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, every Thursday.

Today, Thursday, January 7, Chris Williams' talk is titled, 'The Bristol Barbazon', For further information, contact 02920 594881. **PMW**

PRESCRIPTIONS MADE EASY FOR HOME RESIDENTS

HEALTH and Social Services Minister Mark Drakeford AM recently visited Tower Hill residential home, in Penarth, one of 30 piloting a new system, which uses barcode technology generated in local pharmacies to ensure residents receive the right prescription medicines.

The minister met residents and staff and saw the system in action at the nearby Washington Pharmacy.

The project is sponsored by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board. Pharmacies and care homes in Swansea, Tondu, Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthen are also taking part in the pilot.

As pharmacists dispense prescription medicines, a unique barcode – personalised to each patient – is generated.

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Community choir entertains residents at a nursing home

THE College Fields Nursing Home in Barry hosted a Christmas-themed day when members from Barry Community Choir performed songs and carols.

The staff made everyone very welcome, the songs reached back over the ages and many of the residents happily joined in, which made for a wonderful atmosphere.

The choir plans to continue singing in care and nursing homes, as well as performing in solo and shared concerts.

We started back to rehearsals at Crossways Church, Barry, on January 6.

For information, or to book the choir for any event, contact 01446 748724 or 029 2053 1359. We are on Facebook and our web address is www.barrycommunitychoir.com.

All at the choir wish our members, supporters and friends a very happy 2016. **SV**

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Time to act on all Vale flood defence projects

Vale MP
ALUN CAIRNS
reports to our GEM readers

HAPPY New Year to all GEM readers and best wishes for the year ahead.

The end of last year and the start of the new brought with it what seemed some of the wettest weather we have experienced.

There were some particularly hot (or should I say wet) spots round the Vale that I have been worried about. Over recent years, there have been a number of areas that have flooded all too regularly.

The television footage of the devastating impact flooding has on families and communities reminded me of how local people felt when the same happened to them.

Over recent years, I recalled visits families, businesses and schools in Barry, Cowbridge (and a number of smaller villages such as Llandow) across the rural Vale, where they were experiencing similar devastation.

Boverton is a specific case I will return to.

The reasons for the flooding in some of these areas are varied. Some were simply as a result of blocked or collapsed culverts; others because of building in inappropriate areas – not only on flood planes but also the impact of inadequate drainage when developers concrete over green spaces.

Action has been taken to prevent the re-occurrence in a number of these communities. Commitments were gained from a number of authorities to clear and clean culverts and more assessments should take place on the impact of development.

I will continue to monitor the situation to ensure this work continues.

Thankfully, at the time of writing, those areas mentioned had not been affected yet by this adverse weather.

There is one area, however, where commitments from the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Vale Council to rebuild the culvert in Boverton – has seen no action on the ground.

This is a community that has experienced the worst of flooding on a number of occasions in recent years.

In spite of the warm words and a number of public meetings, Boverton is still waiting for the funding to be committed.

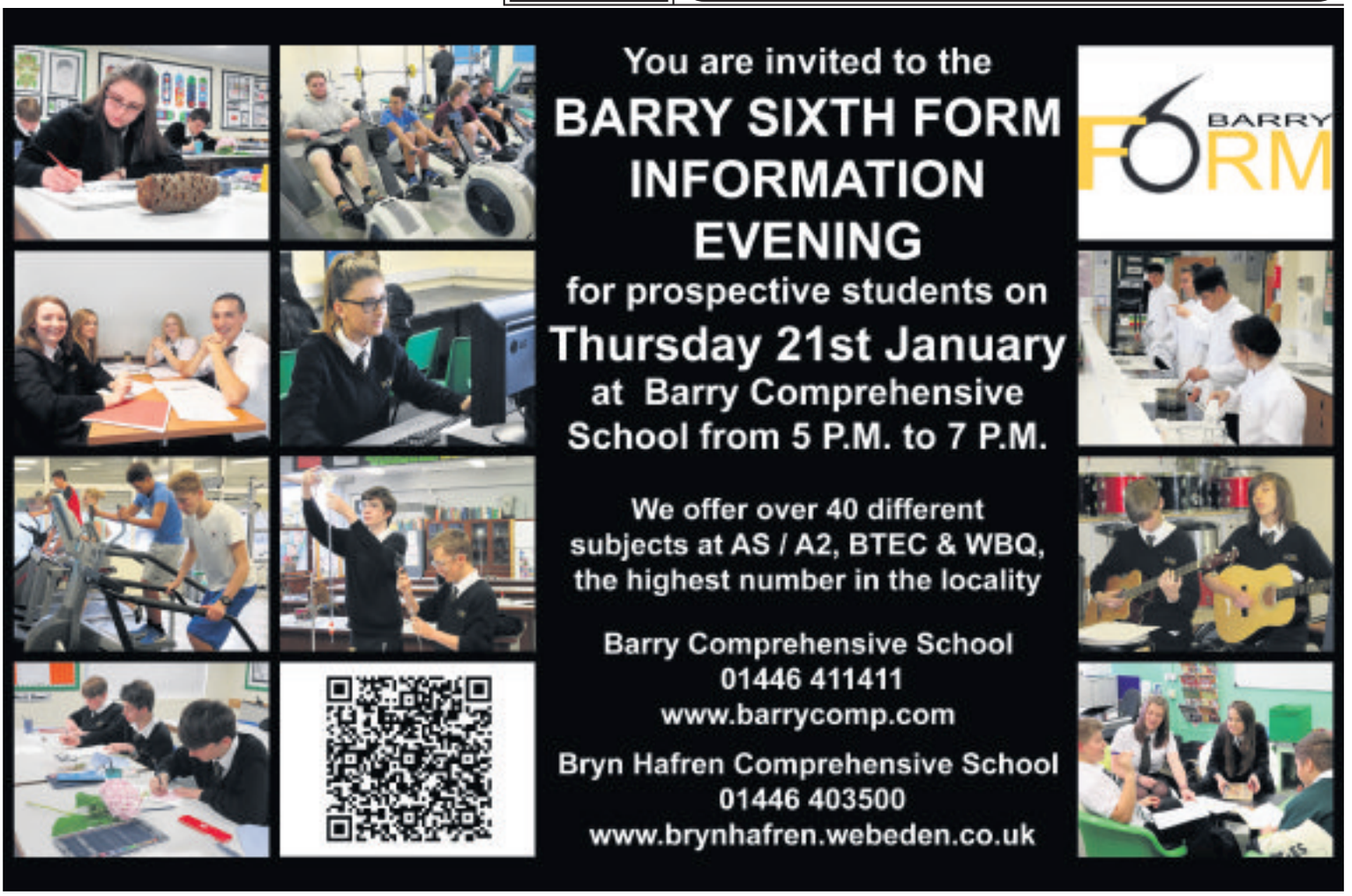
I have been to a number of public meetings, where NRW have said it was a priority, only to see other communities in Wales receive the spend.

One local campaigner that I contacted this week told me that the delay is even more galling when he considers that flood defences further up the river led to the flooding in Boverton.

Clearly, all projects must be thought through to ensure that necessary action is taken to resolve the whole local problem, not one part of it.

The UK Government has made more money available to combat flooding, for which Wales will receive its share. It now falls to the Welsh Government to use that money on anti flood measures.

I hope that on this occasion they do and that Boverton and other Vale projects don't miss out yet again. Otherwise local individuals and communities won't forget when it comes to expressing their views through the ballot box.



£7,000 is collected for Vale Mayor's charities

Mayor's charity fund sponsors Ken Sievewright of KCS Transport Ltd and Mr David Johns-Powell of Cottrell Park Ltd, are pictured with the Vale Mayor.

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun Fred Johnson, has hosted a reception for representatives of his nominated charities – the RNLI (Barry Dock Lifeboat), and the St Vincent de Paul Society (Barry branch).

He thanked everyone, including Vale Council staff, who had contributed to the Christmas raffle, which raised £1,245.

The Mayor's charity fund has now reached over £7,000 and more fundraising events are planned for 2016.

'Back the local town centres'

call by councillor

PLAID Cymru councillor for the centre of Barry, Coun Ian Johnson, has called on the Vale Council to promote town centres as its New Year's resolution – and that they should start the year by officially scrapping plans to charge for town centre car parks.

Coun Johnson said: "The uncertainty over car parking charges in Barry and Cowbridge has gone on for far too long. The Vale Council should start 2016 by admitting that these proposals were wrong, would have an adverse effect on our town centres, and announce that they are being scrapped immediately.

"We want to see more people shopping in our town centres, spending more money," he added.

NFU LADIES' PARTY TIME!

THE Vale NFU ladies held a carol service at St John's Church, Penllyn, before adjourning to the village hall, where all members had taken food for a banquet and fun.

Chairwoman Ann thanked the committee for supporting her during the year and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and healthy 2016.

Ann also reminded everyone that the next meeting will be the 50th anniversary dinner of the NFU Ladies on January 19 at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, starting with a drinks reception at 7pm.

For details, contact Ann on 01446 760528. **JS**

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Penarth and District Ramblers take on wintry walks

Penarth Ramblers on a winter walk in Penarth.

AS part of the annual Festival of Winter Walks just after Christmas and despite the constant rainfall that has been falling, a group of seven keen walkers, plus dogs Bronte and Bracken, turned out in yet more rain to join Sue and Jodie the Staffie at Penarth Cliff top car park.

This proved to be a perfect walk to stay out of the mud, as they set off through an urban area and tramped along the old railway line, descending gradually along pavements and across Lavernock Road to Cosmeston Country Park.

As the rain stopped, they continued around both the eastern and western lakes to the medieval village and, re-crossing Lavernock Road, joined Fort Road and paddled through surface water escaping from the adjacent waterlogged fields.

They passed the delightful church dedicated to St Lawrence at Lavernock Point where long distance views out over the Bristol Channel towards Flat and Steep Holm and the Somerset coastline could only be glimpsed through a mist.

After turning eastwards and following the Wales Coast Path along the clifftop, which resembled a streambed and where water was gushing over the cliff onto the beach below, the rain began to fall heavily as they made their way back to their start; but everyone agreed they had enjoyed a spell in the fresh air after the excesses of the festive season.

The following day was dull and overcast but dry and eight female walkers, along with dogs Jodie, Bracken and Bronte, joined Jan and John at Cold Knap car terrace from where they set off along Lakeside and under the railway bridge to cross the very boggy grass at Romilly Park.

A climb followed past the Gorsedd Stones, to the ruins of Barry Castle on Park Road, and then down Fishpond Hill, where they deviated down a flight of slippery leaf-covered steps into the cwm before crossing the bridge over the fast flowing Barry Brook.

The track covered in thick oozing mud caused a few balance problems before they tramped uphill and made their way through a residential area and then downhill into the Millwood.

The rough muddy rain-soaked track beside the racing Nant Talwg stream led on to the remains of the old sawmill, built in 1835 as part of the Porthkerry estate owned by the Romilly family. Making their way across the main meadow of Porthkerry Country Park, before re-crossing the Barry Brook, they headed uphill on Lover's Lane.

Deviating through the Garden Suburb, a kind offer of mince pies and coffee at their leader's nearby home, was politely declined by most of the group who were covered in mud from their boots upwards and their return journey was made along Porth-y-Castell and downhill through Birch Grove Wood, then along the base of the hill below Marine Drive to the steps leading back to the car park.

On January 9, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for an eight-mile moderate walk taking in Llansannor; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On January 10, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a six-mile easy walk around Cardiff Bay; contact Ann on 029 2040 7319.

To follow the group log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

IN BRIEF

Vale AM's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery on January 9, from 10am – 11am at Barry CAB office 119 Broad Street. ***No appointment is necessary.***

Equity advice

Do you own your own home? Are you interested in advice and information on equity release?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale will hold an advice session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on January 12 from 10am – 12pm.

No appointment needed. Call 01446 732385 for details.

Ed Evans concert raises £870

THE Ed Evans Foundation held a very successful concert at Wick Village Hall on Friday, December 4 with The Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir.

The choir performed to a packed hall and over £870 was raised for charity. The foundation would like to thank everyone that contributed to make the evening a success.

Sue Evans
Ed Evans Foundation

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CHARITY SANTA MOTORBIKE RIDE IN MEMORY OF LOCAL TEACHER

MORE than £1,000 was raised in memory of a Cowbridge teacher when 35 motorbike Santas toured the Vale just before Christmas.

GEM readers will remember the outpouring of grief that followed the sudden death last October of Tanya Floyd – who lived near Cowbridge and who taught in Caldicot.

Her family and friends have been raising money in her memory for two charities that she supported, Cancer Research Wales and Y Bont, a children's charity in Bridgend. The total funds raised have almost reached £10,000.

The motor bike Santas (with some elves and a snowman) rode to as many villages as possible through the Vale, Bridgend and RCT.

The event was organised by Vale Moto Training of Llandow, and spokesman Stephen Davey said: "We hope to make this an annual event.

"We managed to raise £1,144.60 for Y Bont children's charity and it was held in memory of Tanya Floyd.

"There was a good crowd to greet us as we finished at the Duke of Wellington in Cowbridge, who also supported the event."

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

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Above picture by Stephen Davey.

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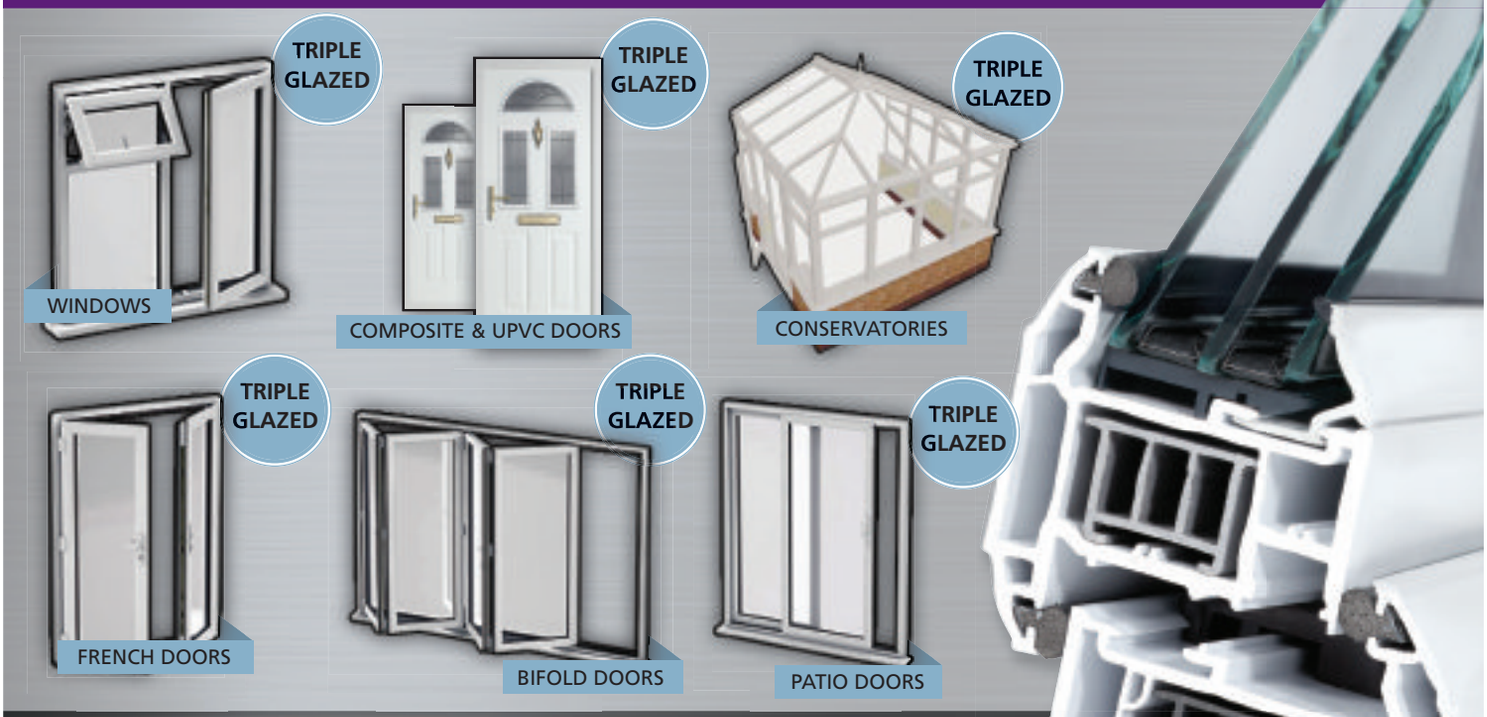

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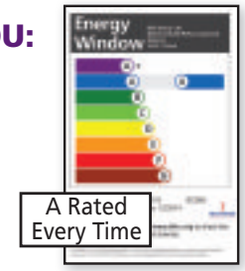

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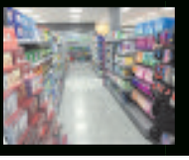

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Local people recognised in New Year's Honours list

A NUMBER of local people were included in the year's New Year's Honours list:

Mr Gareth James Williams of Treoes received the OBE for public and voluntary services in Wales.

Mr David Anthony Street of St Athan received the MBE. Mr Street is the founder of One Voice Wales, and his award was for services to community-based democracy in Wales.

Mr Emlyn Tysil Williams, a former Mayor of the Vale, received the MBE for public and political service.

Mrs Helena Charles received a British Empire Medal (BEM) for voluntary service to the community in Blaengarw.

Mr Basil Edward Priest received the BEM for voluntary service to Holme Towers Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth.

Gareth Williams received the OBE. Since retiring to The Vale in 2002 with his wife, Ruth, he has held three roles of chairman – the Institute of Directors Wales, the Trustees of ScoutsWales and of Netalogue plc – one of Wales public companies. In addition, he has served as a Trustee of the National Museums of Wales.

Mr Williams recently completed three major reports which the Welsh Government fully accepted on the future regulation and strategy for agriculture.

He is currently a UK Trustee and chairman of the Wales Board for Marie Curie, a Fellow of the Institute of Directors and an Honorary Fellow of Cardiff Metropolitan University.

He said he was both surprised and privileged to receive his honour and that it reflected the contribution and dedication of so many with whom he has worked. In particular he paid tribute to Ruth who has been so supportive and encouraging during these recent years.

Emlyn Williams, who received an MBE, is a former long-serving councillor on the Vale of Glamorgan Council, is also a former Vale Mayor.

The South Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, said:

"Emlyn's award is one which is hugely deserving given his steadfast commitment to public service, to his friends and colleagues, and the many positive causes he has supported.

"Having served for 38 years as a councillor, Emlyn, has been a shining example of how to conduct yourself in public life. As a councillor he was the first port of call for his constituents and was always willing to support new colleagues, teaching good practice and conduct.

"He has also been an inspiration to many young men in his community, with 12 years in the probation service often working with young adults from difficult backgrounds and challenging upbringings. Even in retirement he has retained a close bond with many of the people he helped onto the right path.

"A true local champion in Barry, there is not one person who deserves such an honour more and this is a testament to his years of commitment to the local community."

David Street received an MBE. He told The GEM that he had been active in politics for over 40 years.

It was during his time as a community councillor at St Athan that he felt there was a need for a body to represent small councils

Mr Gareth Williams received an OBE.

and to offer training and advice.

He said: "At the time there were two rival bodies who did not talk to each other, and neither was doing a good job."

He campaigned for a new body and 'One Voice Wales' was the result.

Mr Street was the first chairman of the body, and the organisation now represents and offers services to 550 member councils.

Helena Charles, aged 97 and receiving the BEM, was the oldest recipient of an honour in Wales. She received a Mayor's Citizenship award from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in 2013 for her work in the community over many years, including fundraising efforts with the Dan Y Mynydd Knitting Club.

She was also involved in organising regular trips to the UK for children from Chernobyl.

Basil Priest, a comparative youngster at 85, also received a BEM. He became involved with Marie Curie in Penarth after observing the care given to his wife, who died at the hospice in 1987.

Ever since then, he has been a volunteer there, doing a range of general duties. He said: "Holme Towers helped me get through the pain of my wife's death, and having somewhere to go and do something useful made a huge difference."

He said that continuing with his volunteering had kept him active, and he had no plans to stop.

He added: "I was proud to receive the award, but there are so many other people – people in the emergency services for instance – who seem to deserve it more."

Andrew Wilson-Mouasher, divisional general manager for Marie Curie, said: "For many years Basil has been incredibly generous in giving up his time and skills to support the work of the charity. He is someone who is popular with patients, families, staff and volunteers alike.

"On behalf of everyone at Marie Curie, I would like to congratulate Basil on this well-deserved recognition. We are very lucky to have his support, and extremely grateful for his dedicated contribution."

Group sees Ray's vision of robot surgery realised

WELSH rugby legends Eddie Butler and Bob Norster had a front row seat to watch Wales' biggest hospital's surgical robot in action.

The pair were part of a Prostate Cymru group invited to University Hospital of Wales (UHW) to see the £2.5 million robot. The charity has provided funding to support the training of surgeons from across Wales in using the robot.

More than 250 patients have already been treated using the robot, which dramatically reduces recovery time and is much less invasive for the patient.

Eddie Butler said: "We are so proud to be able to visit UHW and see the surgical robot in action. We have been supporting the charity for a few years now and helped raise the funds that went towards the Da Vinci training, so to see it in action was a great experience."

Professor Howard Kynaston, the Professor of Urological Surgery for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB), said: "We were very pleased to be able to show our supporters from Prostate Cymru how the robot works. Whilst they had seen video footage before, one can really appreciate how much of a leap forward this is in terms of surgery when you see the 3D imaging and the surgical team working with the robot."

He added that the robot had great benefits for patients who

Eddie Butler.

experience a much faster return to normal activities than conventional surgery, with reduced blood loss and peri-operative problems.

Bob Norster, director of sports management company, Engagesport, said: "We are happy to have played our part in fundraising to help towards the necessary training. This is a major step in helping individuals with prostate diseases and we hope many more health boards invest in the service."

The robot, which was funded by the Welsh Government's Health Technology Fund and Cardiff University, has treated 258 patients since it arrived at UHW. It also treats patients from across Wales, with surgeons from Hywel Dda and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg having been trained alongside Cardiff and Vale colleagues.

Andy Thomas, chairman of Prostate Cymru, said the charity was very pleased to see how its funding in training support was being used.

He said: "It makes an amazing difference to see it there in action. It will drive our ambassadors and fundraisers to campaign harder and have a better understanding of the difference it is making."

Andy, a urologist himself, said that the cancer was one of the most common in Wales, with one in three people having a family history of the disease. He said it was important that those with that history have a conversation with their doctor about the pros and cons of a prostate test.

He said the robot was a great example of collaboration across Wales: "I love the fact that different health boards and surgeons are working together. I think the team is outstanding. I am just impressed with the set-up and with the team-work on show – plus the fact they have turned this into a high volume service treating hundreds of patients is impressive.

"I think the robot brings fantastic benefits. It benefits the patient and improves their quality of life with 24 hour surgery and a much quicker recovery time. We want to support the robotic project anyway we can."

Operation Robot, the campaign to bring robotic surgery to Cardiff, was launched by Vale cancer patient Ray Murray. His widow Lynne was among the charity group that joined the visit.

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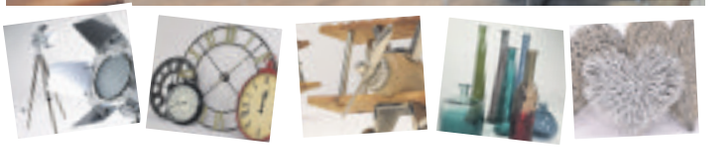

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Redmayne and Vikander impress in The Danish Girl

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

LAST January, Eddie Redmayne's performance as Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything* was the gateway to massive awards season recognition, as the Brit hoovered up nearly every award under the sun.

Fast-forward 12 months and Redmayne is again in awards season contention, this time for his performance in *The Danish Girl*. With a toe in reality, but based on the novel by David Ebershoff, Redmayne plays artist Einar Wegener, married to fellow artist Gerda (Alicia Vikander) but whose latent desire to become a woman comes to the surface when Gerda asks him to dress up for a painting.

With the pair confused by what is happening, their lives become irrevocably changed as Einar, or Lili, begins to live his life as he wants rather than in the way social convention dictates...

With Eddie Redmayne in the lead, and with Tom Hooper (*The King's Speech*, *Les Miserables*) behind the camera, *The Danish Girl* has more than a whiff of awards bait about it. Throw in a subject matter that is touching and merits discussion, and you have something tailor-made for recognition.

Yet while this can't be argued, the end product is a film that is both incredibly powerful and touching, a story of identity that captivates and connects, yet is perhaps a little too functional and familiar to really linger.

The aces up the sleeve of this particular film come from the lead performances; while Redmayne delivers yet another exceptional performance Vikander is perhaps even more impressive. While the story details Einar's transformation into Lili, Gerda's story is equally as important, as she sees her husband become a friend and companion.

Vikander's turn cements her position as one of the best actresses working today. The performance is subtle and unshowy, yet never fails to capture the emotional impact that she must feel as her world unravels in front of her.

Redmayne has the meatier role, and his performance is superb, the inner turmoil of Einar as his true self comes to the fore both beautiful (the sense of a weight being lifted) and saddening (the realisation that he needs to go to extremes to really become the woman he believes he is).

Tom Hooper's direction is gorgeously realised, the artistry of the lead characters lending to his painting-like visuals. Much like *The King's Speech*, this is a film focused on the characters, but Hooper's visual sensibilities and tone are very much to the fore here, creating a delightful looking film.

Where the film lacks impact is in its storytelling. The notion of transgenderism is something audiences will be more than familiar with, and for a film to tackle the subject is more than topical, but you never get a true insight into the condition.

Instead, we are treated to what could be, at worst, described as melodramatic cliche, as Einar's journey to becoming Lili unfurls, full of evil-looking doctors, anguished feelings and misjudged emotions.

That this is the middle section of the film lends it not inconsiderable sag, but as we reach the climax, and Lili's cause is supported by a doctor who can make her, physically, the woman she longs to be, the film gets back on track, regaining the momentum the middle section loses.

Brilliantly performed, pleasingly directed, if only there was a little less convention to the story being told, as *The Danish Girl* is certainly a powerful film – yet the key to the story feels a little too cliched to really hit home.

VERDICT: An intriguing and emotional story that is a little too sensitively handled in *The Danish Girl*. Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander are tremendous in the lead performances, and Tom Hooper's direction is gorgeous to look at, but the script sags in the middle section and feels a little too cliched; while the conclusion has dramatic power, it's not quite enough to really hit home. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The King's Speech* (2010), *Carol* (2015).

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Police seek missing Bridgend man

POLICE are appealing for information to help trace a missing Bridgend man, 30-year-old Marvin Lee James, last seen at Tennyson Drive, Bridgend on Tuesday, December 29 around 11.30pm.

Marvin Lee James

It is understood that he left Tennyson Drive in a silver Ford Transit van, registration number EN08 EAA. He is described as 5'8" tall, of medium build with mousey brown hair and a short beard.

It is believed that he may have travelled to the Ogmore by Sea area and South Wales Police urge anyone who has any information to contact them on 101, quoting reference number 1500479532.

REMEMBERING JULIUS CAESAR – *the artist, that is!*

THE pre-Christmas appearance of Brian Davies, former curator of Pontypridd Museum, at Cowbridge U3A's History Group is fast becoming as much a tradition as decorated trees, mulled wine and mince pies.

This time, the subject of his illustrated talk (given, as usual, without the aid of notes) was the artist Julius Caesar Ibbetson, whose paintings have proved to be an invaluable source of the social history of late 18th century Wales.

They not only depict landscapes and buildings, but also ordinary working people. Ibbetson was born in Yorkshire by the caesarean section that killed his mother, accounting for his Christian names, which he detested all of his life.

He was initially apprenticed to a ship's painter in Hull, but, with the ambition of becoming an artist, he walked to London, where he started working for an art dealer.

He was later to liken the relationship of art dealers to artists as akin to that of butchers to cows! His distinctive work was influenced by the Dutch masters of the 17th century and focussed on the lives of ordinary people at labour and play in everyday surroundings.

Thus he became one of the great founders of British landscape art, a generation before the era of the better-known Constable and Turner.

His Welsh pictures (he produced around 120 watercolour and oils here) include scenes at Conwy and Llanrwst, weavers in Llangollen, Tenby, the waterfalls at Ystradfellte, Briton Ferry, Llantrisant, Tongwynlais, Swansea and Cardiff.

His 1790 painting of the inside of a foundry compares well with the similar one Turner made 20 years later – and has far better depictions of the foundry men.

Ibbetson's 'Bridge of Beauty', a landscape showing the new bridge at Pontypridd in the distance, is now on display at Pontypridd Museum.

His skill as a miniaturist is shown well by this piece, where even the hooves of the cows are finely detailed. On retirement, the artist returned to his home county, where he died in 1817, aged only 58.

Ibbetson is now little known to the general public, but his detailed watercolours of iron furnaces, coal staithes, and copper mines have proved to be an important record of social history, earning him the respect of historians, if not of art experts.

The History Group are already anticipating Brian's next pre-Christmas offering!

SPM

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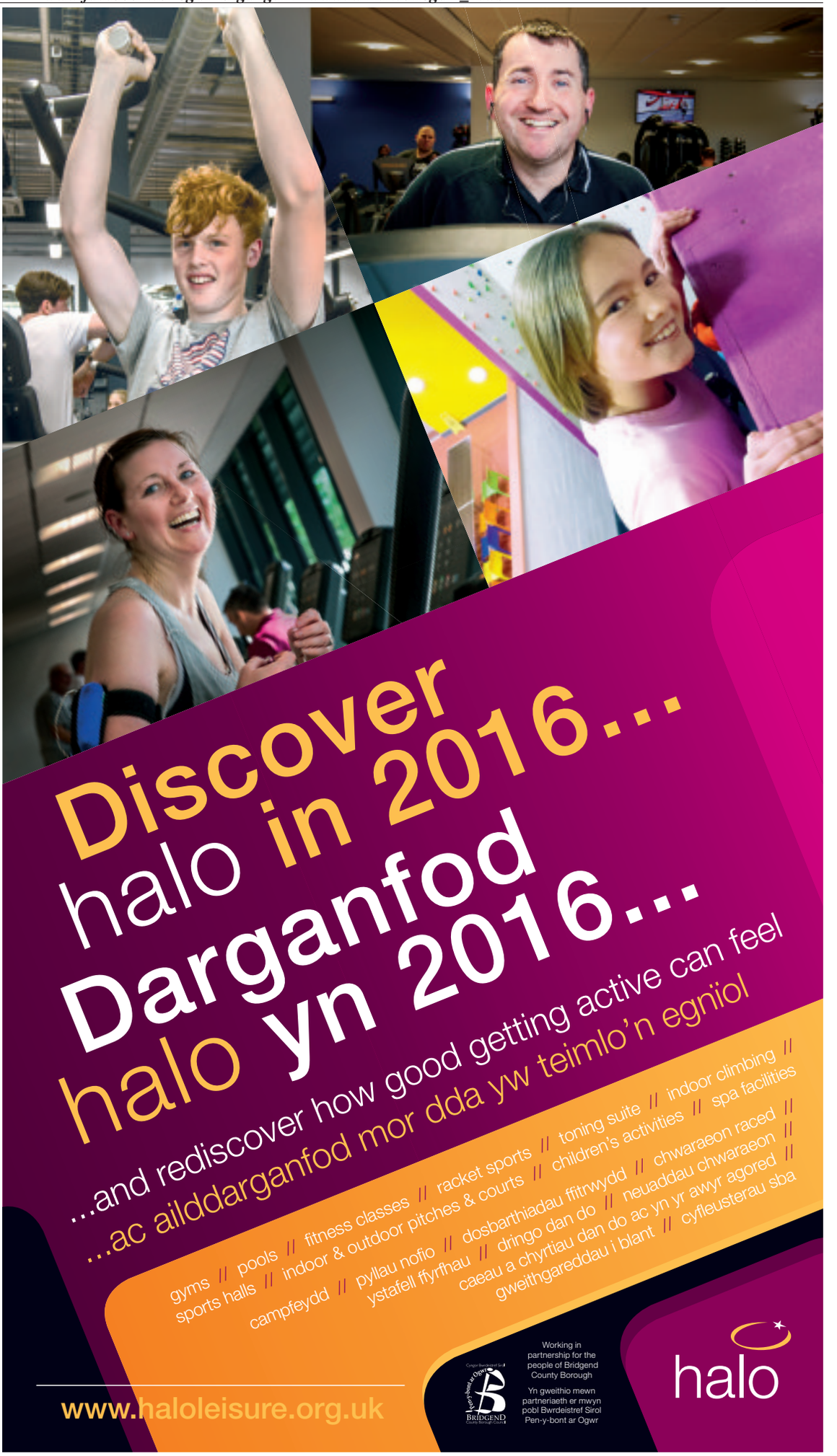

Health Beauty & fitness

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Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Nia 07793 885581

Tuesdays 9:30am and 11.30am
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Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Tuesdays 6:30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola - 01446 740394

Wednesdays 6:00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Wednesdays 4:45pm and 6:45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen - 01656 720963

Thursdays 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry CF63 4EL
Nicola - 01446 740394

Thursdays 5:30pm
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(WELSH SCHOOL, HAM LANE) ZUMBA 07:00 PM

For more information contact Linda on 07964 359 362

FREE introductory class with this coupon!

New beginners' Pilates course

TWO new beginners' Pilates courses start this month: the two six-week introductory courses, suitable for those with little or no experience of Pilates, begin on Monday, January 11 at 12.45pm, or Friday, January 22 at 8.30pm in St Nicholas Hall, Barry.

The cost is £39 for each course.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining strength with flexibility and postural awareness. Classes are small and friendly and are taught by qualified Pilates teacher, Sharon Sylvester.

The new courses run alongside six existing classes at St Nicholas Hall; there are beginners, improvers and intermediate classes.

A new beginners' class starts in Cardiff on Tuesday, January 12 from 10am, at Gaia Yoga in Roath.

*To book your place, contact Sharon on **07830 085606**, or email **sharonpilates@hotmail.com**.*

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10am - 10.45am.
Highlight Park
11.30am - 12.15pm.

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Tory AM's call for 'increase in hospital beds' is 'simplistic' – says health board

A REGIONAL Conservative AM, Suzy Davies, this week urged the Welsh Government to increase bed numbers at hospitals in the area, after hearing that at one stage, 13 ambulances were queuing up outside the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on Sunday.

Ms Davies said paramedics had reported that they were spending their entire shifts sitting outside hospitals run by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) unable to discharge patients. She claimed Morriston Hospital in Swansea at one time on Sunday had 13 ambulances outside its A&E.

The board countered by saying the comments were "simplistic", adding that opening more hospital beds and staffing them with expensive agency staff would "only store up more problems for the future".

Suzy Davies claimed: "If ever evidence was needed to show that the Welsh Labour Government has axed too many beds, this is it. In the past decade, Welsh Labour has reduced bed numbers by a fifth – at a time when the population is growing and when that population is also ageing.

"Unless they start increasing the numbers of beds at all Welsh hospitals, the crisis we get each winter will intensify. It is already out of control."

She went on: "Ambulance staff are doing their best. How can they respond to category A red calls when they have as many as 28 ambulances tied up outside just two hospitals – and heaven knows what was going on elsewhere. Of course there are no ambulances available under those circumstances to deal with other urgent cases.

"Paramedics are warning that lives will be lost. Our A&E departments in Wales are snowed under with people waiting on trolleys to be admitted to a ward. But bed managers cannot find the beds needed because they no longer exist.

"I am calling on ABMu to start opening up extra beds at its hospitals. Obviously, agency staff will have to be brought in to look after people but what's the alternative?"

'FLEXIBILITY'

An Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board spokeswoman replied: *"Calling for more hospital beds is overly simplistic and not the answer. If it was that easy, hospitals right across the UK would have done this already, instead of facing ever-increasing pressures in their emergency departments.*

"The reality is that the demands on the 21st century NHS have not only increased, but changed. People are living much longer, but unfortunately, many have long-term conditions, and often more than one. We must overhaul the way we deliver care to meet these demands.

"Opening more hospital beds and staffing them with expensive agency staff would only store up more problems for the future, by diverting investment away from where it needs to go.

"However, there is planned flexibility in our hospitals to help deal with particular demand. For example in Morriston Hospital we have opened a theatre admission unit to support the winter pressures by reducing the number of cancelled operations. And for the next couple of weeks we are keeping the short stay unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital opened at weekends. Our main focus has been on ensuring that we have the right staff available 24/7 for patients.

"But the real answer lies in investing more in community-based health and social care and primary care (GPs) to prevent people coming into hospital in the first place – or if they are admitted, getting them home on time. We also need to be smarter in the way we deal with the flow of patients through our hospitals, avoiding unnecessary hold-ups.

"We are already well down the road with these improvements in ABMU, but it is not a quick fix. We are already working closely with GPs and local authorities to increasingly deliver more care in people's own homes, where they want to be and where they recover better. However there is still much more to do.

"We are also improving hospital processes to remove delays, and this is reflected in some of our latest ambulance turnaround times. Since our new improvement scheme began in December, the numbers of long ambulances waits outside Morriston Hospital (over an hour) have dropped considerably to an average of three a day instead of 13, and on many days last month there were none at all.

"Likewise, the number of emergency department patients waiting over 12 hours before being admitted or discharged halved in December, since the new scheme kicked in."

The spokeswoman emphasised: *"Last weekend's situation was exceptional, because of a huge rise of up to 25 per cent more medical emergencies than we would normally expect for this time of year, coupled with staff sickness.*

"Longer term, the ARCH programme which we are progressing with our partners Hywel Dda University health Board and Swansea University will help transform the way we deliver care across the region."

Political eye-opener for star Matthew!

PLAYING the scheming political advisor Harri James in S4C's new drama, Byw Celwydd, has given Porthcawl-born actor Matthew Gravelle an insight into what happens at the Senedd, and it's been quite an eye opener!

Byw Celwydd continues on Sunday, January 10, with Harri intending to make his mark and strengthen the nationalists' hand in Cardiff Bay. And even in his own party, his straight-talking and scheming is bound to ruffle a few feathers.

Although fictional, the themes and characters in Byw Celwydd have been inspired by the Senedd.

"What we're trying to do is reflect politics in Wales, while exploring new possibilities. I've thoroughly enjoyed the process, because before Byw Celwydd, I didn't have a clue how things worked politically in this country," Matthew said.

"It's been a real eye-opener for me and now I can see that people play one person against the other," added Matthew, who played Joe Miller in the successful ITV crime drama, Broadchurch.

His character in Byw Celwydd is unlike any other character he has played: "Harri tries to take the lead and influence others.

"He's a manipulator, and he certainly manipulates people to do whatever he believes the nationalists need to do to reach the top."

Matthew (39) lives in Cardiff with his actress wife Mali Harries, and their two children.

Byw Celwydd is on Sunday, January 10, 9pm, S4C with English subtitles; also on Tuesday, January 12 at 10pm with on-screen English subtitles; Website: s4c.cymru.

GOING BEHIND THE LENS

Tips from the Vale Camera Club

IF you were lucky enough to receive a new camera for Christmas, here are a few tips for taking better photographs from the Vale Photographic Club:

1. When photographing children or pets, kneel down and take the photograph at their level. The 'view from above' is one we see every day, getting down lower gives a 'not so commonly seen' view, and a more interesting photograph as a result.

2. Dead centre is dead boring – moving your subject off to one side (known as the rule of thirds) will significantly improve your photograph.

3. Good photographers are as aware of the background as they are the subject – particularly look out for poles, trees or branches appearing to stick out of your subject's head. You may not notice it when taking the photo, but everyone viewing the photo will see it, with much resulting hilarity!

4. If your camera allows it, shoot in RAW. With suitable editing software, RAW allows a greater range of adjustments to be made to the photograph, giving the potential to 'save' a wrongly exposed photograph e.g. children's party pictures indoors that can appear too dark.

5. Make the effort to learn the semi automatic modes on your camera e.g. aperture and shutter priority modes. They give far greater control over artistic qualities of the photograph, such as amount (depth) of focus, and freezing (or blurring) of motion.

6. Use white balance to change the 'feel' of a photograph – lower white balance gives a blue 'cooler' feel, great for winter photographs or where you want to emphasise a cold winters day. Higher white balance gives a yellow 'warmer' feel, great for emphasising the warmth of a summer sunset or the golden colour of autumn leaves.

Hopefully, these tips have got you off to a good start. To learn more, why not consider joining the Vale Photograph club?

Whether you're looking to develop your skills as a serious photographer, just starting out with a new camera, or simply looking to take better photographs of the kids, you'll be most welcome.

For further information, visit the website at http://www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk. The club meets every Friday from September to July at 7.15pm in the Ystradowen Village hall.

ANDREW COLEMAN

New base for local cancer support group

THE Barry branch of the Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Support Group has a new home.

This year they will be meeting in the Mary Lennox Room at Barry Hospital, Colcot Road, Barry, CF62 8YH.

The group meets on the third Friday of every month from 2pm until 4pm. Anyone who has had a diagnosis of breast cancer at some point in their life, or is currently undergoing treatment, is welcome to come along to this friendly and supportive group on a purely 'drop-in' basis.

The next meeting is on January 15, when there will be a talk from Carol Young on 'Laughter for Health'. More information can be obtained from Pam on 07919 035658 or via the website http://www.breastfriendscandv.org.uk.

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Out & About with The GEM

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What's on and where in your area?

Bank closure surgery

THIS Friday, January 8 from 4pm – 6pm, Vale AM Jane Hutt will hold a special surgery at The Heritage Centre, Llantwit Major Town Hall, to discuss the campaign against the proposed closure of Barclays Bank in the town. All welcome to attend.

Mayor's coffee

A COFFEE morning in aid of Motivation Learning Trust and Prostate Cymru, will be held by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian in the Mayor's parlour at Cowbridge town hall ,on Saturday, January 9 from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

Toys and trains

THE Cardiff toy and train sale takes place on Saturday, January 9 at 10.30am – 3pm in the Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, CF64 2NS.

For full details contact 01643 702757 and 07966 694579 or www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

Barratts at St Bride's

THE monthly meeting of the St Bride's Major community council will be held on January 11, at All Saints' Church, Southerndown at 7pm.

A representative of Barratts' development team will be in attendance at this meeting.

Care and Repair

CARE and Repair Cardiff and Vale help older homeowners and private tenants adapt and maintain their homes, and can give advice on grants available ; also information on reputable companies to use.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an information session on January 12 from 10am to 12pm.

No appointment is needed, just come along and have a chat to one of the advisers from Care and Repair at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Cowbridge U3A

THE next Cowbridge U3A meeting will be entitled: The Incredible Life of Dr William Price, by Dean Powell, at 2pm on Wednesday, January 13 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome (there is a small fee, which includes refreshments).

Stargaze in the Vale

TIMED to coincide with the BBC's *Stargazing Live*, on Thursday, January 14 the Cardiff Astronomical Society will open its observatory to the public from 7pm – 9pm at Dyffryn Gardens.

Officers will be on hand to present a tour of the night sky and there will be manned telescopes, as well as stargazing information and advice from experienced astronomers.

The event is free and people can bring their own telescopes and binoculars if they wish.

Pre-book on 02920 593328, email Dyffryn@nationaltrust.org.uk or go to visitor reception, open daily from 10am.

In the event of bad weather, presentations will be given by members of the society. Martin Chick, chairman said: "We try to hold this every year and, weather permitting, we hope to give people the opportunity to see the wonders of the universe through our telescopes, as well as access to knowledgeable astronomers."

For further information, contact Theresa Cooper on 01656 646920; Public.Events.Organizer@cardiffastronomical-society.co.uk.

Computer classes

FREE classes for seniors will offer one-to-one tuition by students of UWC Atlantic College in computer skills, including sending emails, creating word documents, 'surfing the net' and online shopping.

They will be held on Wednesday afternoons, from January 20 at UWC Atlantic College, St Donat's Castle, Llantwit Major CF61 1WF. Call Christine on 01446 799076 for details

Saint Dwynwen dinner will aid George Thomas hospice

EVERY year love is in the air much earlier in Wales as we celebrate Santes Dwynwen, the Welsh patron saint of love on January 25.

In honour of this, George Thomas Hospice Care is again holding an evening of fine food and opera at Giovanni's, Cardiff.

The story goes that in the fifth century, Dwynwen fell in love with Maelon Dafodrill, who returned her feelings but for an unknown reason, they could not be together.

Dwynwen, distraught by her love for Maelon, prays to fall out of love with him. She was visited by an angel, who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maelon and turn him into a block of ice.

God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen; first, she wished that Maelon be thawed; second, that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers; and third, that she should never marry. All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life.

Following a sparkling reception at 7pm, guests will be treated to a three-course meal with coffee and then serenaded by stars of Welsh opera as they sing romantic West End hits and light opera.

*Tickets are £28 each and are available from George Thomas Hospice Care on 029 2052 4150. See **www.gthc.org.uk** for further information, or telephone **02920 524150**.*

The Cardiff hospice is presently caring for several hundred patients with life-threatening illnesses and their families and takes on over 13 new patients every week.

Since its establishment in 1984, it has supported over 24,000 patients.

Nicky Piper MBE,
Corporate fundraising and events manager

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D912.

- **£2,000:** 386891.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £4,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 413967, 859964, 329892, 267284, 394195, 114264, 641265, 642428, 707943, 560900, 588867, 623619, 803553, 584702, 491997, 460206,, 682844, 971026, 1094.
- **£5:** 216004, 790673, 537188, 300139, 368149, 454331, 549443, 883053, 805140, 215085, 253726, 665102, 221132, 967618, 427751, 810346, 670807, 557447, 785043, 628095, 291391, 374116, 253455, 298102, 806491, 847848, 801526, 442275, 763019, 778056, 854375, 766493, 717063, 772225, 116656, 315122, 876980, 930572, 534189, 998540, 488234, 507706, 591883, 617238, 299430, 833717, 602762, 535547, 262897, 268850, 950252, 556558, 272446, 421048, 193743, 319414, 260359, 516406, 726.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

African children's choir to sing at hall

AN inspiring evening of music takes place at St David's Hall, Cardiff, with the African Children's Choir on Thursday, January 14 at 7.30pm.

To book, call the box office on 02920 878444.

The African Children's Choir is made up of some of the neediest and most vulnerable children in their countries. Many have lost one or both parents to poverty or disease. The African Children's Choir helps these children break away from the everyday

PLANS UNDER WAY FOR VALE JAZZ FESTIVAL

THE organisers of the Vale Jazz Festival are starting to plan this year's event which will be on again from May 20 – 22.

It will be held in venues throughout Barry including: Marco's, Coffee Cove, The West End Club and The Park pub.

A spokesman said: "If anyone would like to host part of the festival or join the sponsors for this event they are asked to get in touch with the chair, Gemma Collard. The group is looking for sponsorship for publicity, and for venues to pay a fee for bands as part of the plan for another 'free' event."

For further information either email Gemma Collard at getarockon@sky.com or visit the website at www.valejazzweekend.com.

OFF THE BOOKSHELF...

IT may not be the weather for walking just yet but when the days are a bit drier arm yourself with a copy of *Walks for All Age – 20 Circular Walks in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend,* by Hugh Taylor and Moira McCrossan (published by Bradwell Books at £4.99).

This handy little book includes 20 walks up to six miles that the authors have carefully chosen to give you an enjoyable day or half day in the countryside and are suitable for all the family, with detailed descriptions of the walks and useful snippets of information.

Meanwhile, from the suburbs of 1950s Cardiff to present-day America and beyond, Peter Finch explores how much music has shaped his life, while charting the changes it has undergone throughout the last six decades in his book *The Roots of Rock* published by Seren Books of Bridgend and which costs £9.99.

Two delightful young children's books, both published by the bookguild.co.uk and both costing £8.99 are Lola Pug and Unicorn Power.

The latter by Andrea Miller is about a princess who can't dance and needs to learn fast as she has been invited to a ball.

Lola Pug, by Carina Lagnado with illustratings by Emily Colenso, is a family who buy a cute, funny little pug who gets up to all sorts of things!

BRIAN LEE

CYBER CAFÉ'S NEW SITE AT LOCAL SCHOOL

CHILDREN returned to Colcot Primary School after the Christmas break to find an exciting new addition to one of their learning spaces for 2016.

A corridor had been transformed into a brand new Cyber Café, which was ready to be used by the children.

Year-6 children had worked with Bradley from the Illustrate Project to design a graffiti wall for the Cyber Café. They helped spray the outline for the art work and see the wall develop.

"Staff at the school are very excited about using the new Cyber Café to enhance children's ICT skills and to enhance connections with school from around the world by using Mystery Skype," a spokesman said.

"Bradley will also be returning to school to complete smaller graffiti projects with the year-6 children, which will be displayed around the new Cyber Café."

FARMERS' MARKET REWARDS LOYALTY

Winners receiving their prizes from Market Chairman, Anne Loam.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market loyalty card draw was made the week before Christmas and the lucky winners collected their prizes at the Christmas markets in Cowbridge and Penarth.

The Penarth winners who collected their prizes at the Penarth Christmas Market on December 19 were:

First prize, Christmas hamper of Farmers' Market produce – Rod Phillips; second prize, Tregwilym Produce Christmas cake – Mr and Mrs Pierson; third prize, Flapjack Fairy selection box – Claire Hooper.

The Cowbridge prize winners collected their prizes at Cowbridge on Wednesday, December 23 and they were:

First prize of a Christmas hamper of Farmers' Market produce – Olwen Handley; second prize, Teifi cheese and Tomos a Lilford beers – Bob and Susan Gatis; third prize, Shelly Foods biscuit selection – John Weavers.

We have all enjoyed our Christmas and New Year break and the markets will be back at Arthur Johns' Carpark , Cowbridge on Saturday, January 16 and at Westbourne School, Penarth on Saturday, January. 23 (9am-12.30).

Come along and continue to fill in your loyalty cards; the next draws will take place at Easter, when more fantastic prizes will be given away!

Myfanwy Edwards

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It was a very good year... Gareth Jamieson looks back and chooses his top ten films of 2015

THE year 2015 may have ended with a bang, as the force most definitely awoke with the latest Star Wars film, but the previous 11 months were certainly no cinematic slouches.

As ever, condensing the best films of the year into an easily-digestible 10 was never easy (my apologies, in no particular order, to *Kingsman, Ex Machina, Still Alice, The Overnight and Me, Earl & The Dying Girl, Carol, Jurassic World, Steve Jobs* and *Tomorrowland*, amongst others) but here are Screen Talk's top 10 films of 2015.

10. Star Wars: The Force Awakens – Quite simply, the biggest cinematic phenomenon of the year had no right to be this good, yet JJ Abrams' awakening of the franchise yielded impressive results.

Bringing the franchise back full circle after the leaden prequel trilogy, The Force Awakens cleaved close to Episode IV in feel and structure. With newcomers Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Adam Driver shining in their roles, the force was certainly strong here.

9. It Follows – The rule of horror is the less you see, the scarier it is, a commandment that writer/director David Robert Mitchell used here in this story of teens being possessed by a supernatural force and the only way to get rid of it is by passing it on sexually.

Working on many levels, and delivering jumps and scares without telegraphing them, *It Follows* delivered a shot in the arm to the genre.

8. Amy – Asif Kapadia showed with the mighty *Senna* that he was capable of making documentaries of icons and granting them a cinematic feel, and he did it again with *Amy*.

Using voice-over and archive footage, Kapadia scrubbed below the hype to show Amy Winehouse as the troubled, talented soul she was. Heartbreaking, it was a sad reminder of the singer, delivered powerfully.

7. Selma – Shunned by the Academy Awards, *Selma* was the story of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights by marching – and what an incredibly powerful film it was. Director Ava DuVernay managed to treat the material with both respect and an incisive eye for detail, while David Oyelowo's performance as King was shuddering in its detail and power – a truly mesmerising film.

6. Sicario – Denis Villeneuve has barely put a foot wrong with his previous films, but *Sicario* took his dark, murky world view and parlayed into something engrossing and dripping with tension.

Few directors could make a normal car journey so taut, yet Villeneuve's film never let up, only the end credits allowing you to relax in this familiar, yet invigorating, story of drug cartels.

5. Inherent Vice – Paul Thomas Anderson's adaptation of Thomas Pynchon's novel was one of the most meandering and woozy of the year; yet underneath the shaggy-dog story lay strong direction from Anderson, a pin-sharp script and in Joaquin Phoenix and Josh Brolin, two excellent performances that made this Vice a good one!

4. Inside Out – If Pixar's last few releases had shown a chink in their previously invincible armour, then *Inside Out* showed that when on song there are few who can touch them. A brightly coloured story of feelings and emotions that works on levels both young and old, it was an indelible film that amused and touched in equal measure; should you remain dry-eyed at the mention of Bing Bong, then your heart is a frozen wasteland.

3. Mad Max: Fury Road – In an age where blockbusters are ten a penny, and, more importantly, are finding their identity blurred by generic traits, there was something punk rock about George Millar's return to the character of Max Rockatansky, this time brought to life vividly by Tom Hardy.

Millar's film was testosterone in its ostentatious action beats, yet was also a film where the real heroes were females, a refreshing element; visually stunning, Millar showed just how good he can be here.

2. Birdman – Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's wonderful look at a fading star (Michael Keaton on incredible form) was a technical triumph, shot in what looked one long take, but also offered substance as well as style, with superb performances across the board and a story that had no hesitation in pricking the ego of Hollywood and its obsession with superheroes and franchises; ironically, *Birdman* was one of the most refreshing and innovative films of the year.

1. Whiplash – Debut director Damien Chazelle (cymbal) crashed into the year with this pupil-teacher story that played to its own beat.

The relationships were familiar (headstrong teacher, eager to please pupil), but with incredible performances from J K Simmons as the former and Miles Teller as the latter, this drum-based drama skewed notions of predictability to offer something caustic and chilling.

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN PORTHCAWL AND THE SEA SHOWS ITS STRENGTH!

ABOVE: Recently, it was revealed that one particular photo of Porthcawl's harbour light, dwarfed by huge waves, had become the second most watched picture on the Flickr website. Porthcawl's breakwater on a stormy day is now a magnet for photographers, and the seas were high again on New Year's Eve, when Sue Dobbs took this image.

MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

Lowri Cooke yn holi Esther Whitfield

CERDYN POST O BOSTON

Mae Esther Whitfield, sy'n 43 oed ac yn wreiddiol o ardal Penarth, yn Athro ym Mhrifysgol Brown yn nhalaith Rhode Island. Mae hi'n byw gyda'i gŵr, Jeff Seul, a'u plant Ellis (sy'n 9) a Carys (sy'n 6) ger dinas Boston.

Un o ble ydych chi'n wreiddiol?

Dwi'n wreiddiol o Ddinas Powys ond fe symudon ni i Benarth tra ro'n i'n ddisgybl yn Ysgol Glantaf. Fel plentyn, ro'n i'n hoffi mynd lawr i'r pier a'r traeth, a Cosmeston a'r Barri, felly bob tro fyddwn ni nol yng Nghymru bydda i'n mynd yno gyda'r plant.

Sut lanioch chi yn ardal Boston a beth ydych chi'n ei wneud yno?

Ar ôl gadael Coleg yr Iwerydd yn Sain Dunwyd, fe es i i Venezuela, Prifysgol Rhydychen a Llundain, cyn ennill Doethuriaeth mewn Llenyddiaeth America Ladin ym Mhrifysgol Harvard ger dinas Boston. Arhosais i yn yr Unol Daleithiau ar ôl a cwrdd â Jeff, fy ngŵr, a chanfod swydd ro'n i'n mwynhau; ers 2002, dwi'n dysgu yn adran Llenyddiaeth Gymharol Prifysgol Brown yn Providence, Rhode Island. Ry' ni'n byw yn Sharon, tu fas i Boston - lle hyfryd i fagu plant. Mae na hufenfa leol yno sy'n cynhyrchu hufen iâ, fferm ffrwythau, a choedwig braf i fynd am dro, a llyn lle gallwch chi nofio yn yr haf. Cyn cael plant, fe fuon ni'n byw yn Charlestown, sy'n ardal hynafol yn Boston, ar lan y dŵr.

Disgrifiwch eich diwrnod delfrydol yn Boston...

Ar ddiwrnod braf yn Boston, bydden i'n deffro'n gynnar cyn ymlwybro draw i South End – ardal llawn caffis a thai teras hynafol brics coch. Ar ôl cael brecwast yno, yn y Flour Bakery, bydden i'n cerdded draw i'r Boston Common a'r Public Garden. Pe bai'r tywydd yn braf, fe dreuliwn i'r diwrnod cyfan yn mynd am dro, gan groesi'r afon Charles i ardal Cambridge, cyn cael swper ym mwyty wystrys Row 34 yn ardal Fort Point.

Pa dri lle yn Boston y byddech chi'n annog i unrhywun o Fro Morgannwg i ymweld â nhw, i gael blas go dda o'r ddinas honno?

Yr Institute for Contemporary Art ar lan y dŵr, lle mae na gasgliad gwych o gelf mewn adeilad hardd a chyfoes. Yna, ewch am dro ar hyd yr afon Charles, cyn gwylio tîm y Boston Red Sox yn chwarae gêm bêl fas yn Fenway Park.

Beth ydych chi'n ei golli fwyaf am Fro Morgannwg?

Dwi'n colli'r cyfeillgarwch arbennig sydd i'w deimlo, hyd yn oed gyda dieithriaid, ym Mhenarth a Chaerdydd. Dwi hefyd yn colli glan môr Penarth yn fawr.

Gweithgareddau Cyfrwng Cymraeg Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

Dathliad Hen Galan

Ymweliad gan y Fari Lwyd, noson hwyl i'r teulu, canu, a darlith/sgwrs gan Siwan Rosser – nos Lun Ionawr 11eg, 18.30-20.30 yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

Darlith

'Traddodiad y Fari Lwyd' gan Dr Siwan Rosser (Rhan o ddathliad yr Hen Galan) – nos Lun Ionawr 11eg, 19.30-20.30 yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

Cofiwch bod rhaglen o weithgareddau cymdeithasol eraill, megis Amser Stori, Coffi Cymraeg, Côr Cymraeg, Gemau Bwrdd a Chlonc a Gweithdy Digidol, hefyd yn parhau yn wythnosol drwy'r tymor.

Am fanylion pellach, cysylltwch â Mared Furnham: mnfurnham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk / 01446 733762

CLYBIAU WYTHNOSOL I BLANT A THEULUOEDD

Chwaraeon

Bydd clybiau'r Urdd a Menter Bro Morgannwg yn ail gychwyn eto ym mis Ionawr!
Dewch i ymuno â'r clybiau:
Cysylltwch â garetheast@urdd.org neu ar 07557 322891 i bwcio mewn.
Dyma lun o'r plant yn mwynhau yn ein clwb Athletau!

Dydd / Cyfnod	Clwb	Lleoliad	Amser	Pris	Oed
Llun 10 wythnos Dechrau 11/01/16	Athletau	Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. CF62 8YU	6-7yh	£30	Bl. 1-6
Llun 10 wythnos Dechrau 11/01/16	Tenis Bwrdd	Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. CF62 8YU	6-7yh	£30	Bl. 3-6
Sul 10 wythnos Dechrau 10/01/16	Nofio	Canolfan Hamdden Penarth. CF64 2NS	8.00-10.30yb	£35	3 oed – Bl.6
Mercher 10 wythnos Dechrau 13/01/16	Nofio	Canolfan Hebron. CF64 4YB	3.45-4.15yp 4.15-4.45yp	£35	Derbyn – Bl. 4
Gwener 13 wythnos: Dechrau 15/01/16	Nofio	Canolfan Hamdden Y Barri. CF63 4RU	4.00-6.45yp	£35	Dosbarth Derbyn
Gwener 7 wythnos Dechrau 22/01/16	Plantos Heini	YMCA y Barri. CF63 4EE	1.30-2.30yp	£21	2-4 oed
Sadwrn 7 wythnos Dechrau 23/01/16	Rygbi Bach	Ysgol Stanwell. CF64 2XL	11.30-12yp 11.30-12.15yp	£35 £49	2.5-3 oed 3-4 oed

CYFARFOD BLYNYDDOL MENTER BRO MORGANNWG

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Blynyddol Menter Bro Morgannwg ar nos Lun Ionawr 25ain, am 7.30pm yn y Park Hotel, Y Barri CF62 6HE. Dewch i edrych yn ôl ar waith y Fenter dros y 12 mis diwethaf, ac i drafod datblygiadau cyffrous ar gyfer 2016. Siaradwr gwadd: Heini Gruffudd (Arbenigwr Iaith a Chadeirydd Dyfodol yr Iaith). Croeso i bawb! RSVP erbyn Ionawr 22ain os gwelwch yn dda – fion@menterbromorgannwg.cymru / 029 2068 9888

ANGHARAD

BLWYDDYN newydd dda i chi gyd a gobeithio y bydd 2016 yn flwyddyn llawn o bethe hyfryd.

Dyma fy erthygl olaf i'r Gem, am y tro beth bynnag, ac felly dwi am ddiolch eto i'r papur am roi gofod teilwng i'r Gymraeg. Mae'n anhygoel mewn gwirionedd cymaint o faich yw brwydr yr iaith o hyd gyda gormod o benderfyniadau naill ai yn nwylo gwleidyddion yn Llundain sy'n deall dim neu yn nwylo gweldyddion ym Mae Caerdydd sy'n rhy llugoer o lawer.

Cymrwch S4C. Y trysor yng nghoron yr iaith ers dros ddeg mlynedd ar hugain. Wedi'r cwbl, mae cael darlledwr yn ein hiaith ni'n hunain o bwysigrwydd anferthol. Ond yn yr adolygiad gwariant nôl ym mis Tachwedd cyhoeddwyd y byddai'r gwasanaethau cyhoeddus a ariannir gan yr Adran Ddiwylliant - y DCMS - yn colli 5.1% o'u cyllid ar wahân i rhai fel Arts Council England fyddai'n cael codiad sylweddol ac ar wahân i S4C fyddai'n colli 26%! Doedd dim rheswm na rhesymeg tu ol i'r penderfyniad, dim ond pwniad arall i'r iaith. Neges oedd yn dweud yn glir "wfttio chi Gymry Cymraeg" neu yng ngeiriau Aelod Seneddol Ceidwadol Aberconwy Guto Bebb, fu'n ddigon dewr chwarae teg i ymateb i'r anhegwch, "cic faleisius".

Eleni fe fydd cyllideb a thynged S4C yn nwylo'r BBC. Y peryg nawr yw y bydd anhegwch y llywodraeth yn olau gwyrdd iddynt hwythau roi cic i'r gymuned Gymraeg hefyd. Yr ofn mawr yw os byddan nhw'n torri rhagor oddi ar y gyllideb fe allai fod yn amhosib i'r Sianel barhau fel ag y mae.

Byddai ennill ond wedyn colli sianel deledu Cymraeg mewn cyfnod o ddeugain mlynedd yn drasiedi llwyr. Felly mae'n rhaid i ni gofio mai ein cyfnod ni yw hwn. Ein dyletswydd ni yw i adael i lywodraeth Cymru a Phrydain wybod am bwysigrwydd S4C. Gwn i'n haelod seneddol Alun Cairns weithio'n galed o blaid y setliad gorau posib i'r Sianel, ond ni all weithredu ar ei ben ei hun. Ysgrifennwch ato fe, a'r BBC yn Llundain i ddatgan yn glir ein bod yn mynnu ein hawliau. Ysgrifennwch hefyd at yr Aelod Cynulliad lleol, Jane Hutt o'r blaid Lafur, i ofyn beth yw eu cynlluniau nhw i sicrhau bod parhad i'n sianel deledu ni, cyn ei bod hi rhy hwyr.

DAI LINGUAL YN MYND AM DRO YN Y FRO...I SAIN TATHAN

I barhau gyda'n taith hamddenol ar draws Bro Morgannwg, llithrwn ar hyd yr Afon Dawan (wel, mae hi'n weddol aeafol felly dewch â'ch esgidiau sglefrio rhag ofn!) er mwyn cyrraedd nepell o Lanilltud, sef - nid St Athan ond yn hytrach Sain Tathan.

Fel mae'n digwydd, hyd y gwelaf i - ac o ystyried fy mod yn ymwelwr cyson a brwd â Sain Ffagan - dylai synnu neb bod ystyr Sain felly'n hunan-esbonadwy o nawr tan Wyl Sain Dewi, tra bod Tathan druan wedi colli ei T. Mae hi siŵr o fod yn genfigennus o [Ff]agan felly!

Yr wythnos hon edrychwn arlein ar Wicipedia i weld mai neb llai nag ein hewythr doeth Iolo Morganwg sy'n awgrymu taw merch i frenin Gwent oedd Tathan. Er gymaint o edmygedd sydd gen i at Went am oroesi mor hir pan mae mor agos at Glawdd Offa, mae'n amlwg i mi paham oedd Tathan am ddod i lethrau'r Fro yn hytrach na dolau Gwent. Rydw i'r union yr un fath - gen i deulu i'r dwyrain o Gasnewydd ble mae'n anodd dros ben i gynnal addysg Gymraeg i blant felly dylen ni ymfalchïo'n fwyfwy yn ysgolion ein bro.

Ystyriwn wrth gwrs bod Iolo - yn ogystal â bod yn ddoeth tu hwnt - byth wedi dweud celwydd tra bu fyw felly hynny'n Gospel felly!

Gerllaw'r pentref Sain Tathan mae canolfan filwrol MOD St Athan, RAF St Athan gynt. Does dim da yn dod mas o ryfela, a buaswn i'n cynnwys canolfan St Athan yn hynny o beth hefyd.

Mae Llanilltud wrth gwrs yn fan sanctaidd (bron) oherwydd taw fan yna nes i chwarae ar yr un llwyfan, ar yr un noson - a Meic Stevens...ond stori arall yw honno..

Sesiynau Tylino Babi gyda Twf

Bob dydd Iau am 10yb, yn Llyfrgell y Bontfaen. Cwrs newydd yn dechrau Ionawr 15fed. Archebwch trwy ffonio Sioned ar 07791 023363.

Trefnwyd gan 'Twf: Cymraeg o'r Crud'

GWEITHGAREDDAU TEULU TYMOR Y GWANWYN

Dyma fanylion y cyrsiau a'r gweithgareddau sy'n ail-ddechrau ym mis Ionawr:

Amser Stori – i blant 0-4 oed a'u rhieni

Llyfrgell y Barri – bob dydd Mawrth yn ail-ddechrau Ionawr 12fed, 10.30-11am | AM DDIM

Llyfrgell Llanilltud Fawr – bob dydd Iau yn ail-ddechrau Ionawr 14eg, 10.30-11am | AM DDIM

Rygbi Bach –

I blant 2½-3 oed: bob dydd Sadwrn yn dechrau Ionawr 23 | 11.30am-12pm yn Ysgol Stanwell, Penarth | £35 am gwrs 7 wythnos

I blant 3-4 oed: bob dydd Sadwrn yn dechrau Ionawr 23 | 11.30am-12.15pm yn Ysgol Stanwell, Penarth | £49 am gwrs 7 wythnos

Plantos Heini – I blant 2-4 oed

Bob dydd Gwener yn dechrau Ionawr 22 | 1.30-2.30pm yn Gampfa YMCA, Y Barri | £21 am gwrs 7 wythnos

Nofio i Ddechreuwyr – I blant meithrin a dosbarth derbyn

Bob dydd Sul yn dechrau Ionawr 10 | 8.30-9.30am yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Penarth | £35 am gwrs 10 wythnos

Gallwch gofrestru ar gyfer unrhyw un o'r cyrsiau uchod ar wefan y Fenter, neu os hoffech fwy o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â ffion@menterbromorgannwg.cymru / 029 20689888.

Trefnwyd mewn partneriaeth rhwng Menter Bro Morgannwg ac Adran Chwaraeon yr Urdd. Cydnabyddir cefnogaeth Cronfa Arian i Bawb y Loteri a Chyngor Tref y Barri

CYRSIAU HAMDDEN I OEDOLION

Sesiwn Yoga – sesiwn yoga ymlaciedig a hamddenol dan arweiniad Mari Rhys.

Dydd Sadwrn, Ionawr 30ain | 10.30am-1pm yn Festri Capel Bethel, Penarth | £8

Hanes y Gymraeg ym Mro Morgannwg – 'Llanw a Thrai, Trai a Llanw' – Ymunwch â Dr Dylan Foster Evans mewn sesiwn rhyngweithiol i ddod i ddeall rhagor am ddiwylliant cyfoethog y Gymraeg yn y Fro o'r Oesoedd Canol hyd heddiw.

Dydd Sul, Ionawr 31ain | 2-5pm yn Yr Hen Neuadd, Coleg Cymunedol y Bontfaen | £8

Gallwch gofrestru ar gyfer unrhyw un o'r cyrsiau yma ar wefan y Fenter, neu cysylltwch â ffion@menterbromorgannwg.cymru / 029 20689888

Trefnwyd mewn partneriaeth rhwng Menter Bro Morgannwg a Chyngor Bro Morgannwg

Public speaking trio 'a credit to their school'

ABOVE: Daley, Rhys, Ms Thomas and Mark after winning the first round of the ESU-Churchill public speaking competition.

THE Barry Comprehensive School is celebrating a superb performance by the public speaking team that won the first round of the ESU-Churchill competition.

The talented trio consisted of: Mark Williams and Rhys Powell (both in year-9) and Daley Chapman (year -10), who faced tough competition against teams from St Cyres and Westbourne School for a place in the next round.

Rhys Powell, speaking at St Cyres School, confidently shared his view that greed is a destructive and reductive quality for an individual to possess in society today; although, he argued, greed would have once served a purpose for survival.

Miss Thomas, the team's coach, said: "Taking part in the ESU-Churchill public speaking competition has been a truly rewarding and enjoyable experience for the students.

"They are a real credit to the school and we are looking forward to competing in the regional finals next March."

Labour surgery

LABOUR Vale of Glamorgan and Barry town councillors for Castleland Ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Les Sword and Karl Kuhnell will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, January 9, at the Drop-In Centre, Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry from 10.30am until 12pm.

No appointment is necessary. If you need advice, but can't attend, contact Coun Elmore on 07867 506 116, or email celmore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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Christmas cheer for the elderly

VOLUNTEERS from the Vale Council's Greenlinks community transport service teamed up with Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, to bring festive cheer to older people on Christmas Day.

Thanks to the Greenlinks team providing free door-to-door transport, a number of older people were able to attend Christmas events organised by Age Connects and the Glamorgan Voluntary Service.

Eighteen guests enjoyed Christmas lunch and entertainment at Bethel Baptist Church in Llantwit Major, while a further nine were able to join the residents at Golau Caredig in Barry for Christmas lunch.

Jane Platts of Age Connects Cardiff & the Vale said: "If it wasn't for the Greenlinks service and John Hawkins and Conway Hawkins, the wonderful volunteers who drove the buses, many of those who enjoyed Christmas Day lunch would not have been able to attend the events.

"We would just like to say thank you for making the day happen. Both events were so successful they will definitely be run again next Christmas!"

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "Working in partnership with Age Connects, I am extremely pleased that we could donate the use of the Greenlinks buses and help bring some festive cheer to those who needed it. I would like to pass on my congratulations and thanks to Age Connects, Wiltshire Farm Foods and those community-minded volunteers who worked together to put on this special event."

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale offer services for older people including befriending and advocacy. For more information, contact Jane Platts on 01446 795631 or email jane.platts@ageconnectscardiff.org.uk.

Coffee for charity

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Emma Pritchard, will be hosting a coffee morning on Thursday, January 21 at Tŷ Hapus, 163 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HP at 10am to 12pm, in aid of the charities the Mayor's charities, Tŷ Hapus and MND (Motor Neurone Disease) Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan.

For more information, contact 01446 704921, or e-mail juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Still viewing in black and white!

NINE families in Barry and 12 in Bridgend are among 9,000 people in the UK still watching black and white TV, nearly 50 years after former BBC Two controller David Attenborough introduced colour TV nationally.

Catherine Griffith-Williams, spokesperson for TV Licensing Wales, said: "It's astounding that nearly 10 households in Barry still watch on a black and white telly, especially now that over half of homes access TV content over the internet, on smart TVs.

"However, whether you have the latest 4K TV, or a black and white set from the 1970s, if you are watching or recording live television, you do need a TV licence," she warned.

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THE CHRISTMAS DAY SWIM IS GOOD FUN – AND ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE!

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374478

THE Christmas Day swim in Porthcawl, after 51 years one of the biggest and best known in the UK, attracted almost 1,000 swimmers who braved the steady drizzle and strong winds to head out into the Bristol Channel.

The main charity to benefit was the RNLI although many other charities are likely to benefit when the final total is calculated.

Waterfront, Barry
New homes for rent at Mariners Walk

Closing date for applications: 5.00 PM on 13 January 2016
See our main advert for other H4U homes

MARINERS WALK, BARRY (4) - Ref. 122523

Suitable for families meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom houses (x4)
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £124.37 per week

MARINERS WALK, BARRY (2) - Ref. 122535

Suitable for families meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Two-bedroom houses (2)
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £113.47 per week

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

Tai Wales & West Housing

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
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or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 13 January 2016

Vale of Glamorgan Council | Hafod Housing Association | Newydd Housing Association | United Welsh | Wales and West Housing Association

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

FAIRFIELD CRESCENT, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 234821
Suitable for applicants over 55 meeting the maximum occupancy requirement with medical priority
- Two-bedroom bungalow
- Central heating & double glazing
- Community alarm & water meter

Rent £97.96 per week including alarm charges

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS (READVERTISED)

H4U Reference 231099
Suitable for applicants over 55 meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom first floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £102.03 per week inc. water and alarm charges

GADLYS ROAD WEST, BARRY

H4U Reference 210033
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £103.58 per week including water charges

GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY

H4U Reference 122559
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £77.82 per week

GLYNDWR ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 251465
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom first floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Water meter

Rent £76.65 per week

GWENOG COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 210916
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor with lift
- Central heating & double glazing
- Scheme Manager and alarm
- Communal gardens

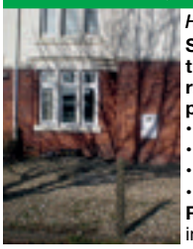
Rent £109.45 per week including water and alarm charges

HANOVER COURT, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 122547
Suitable for applicants over 55 (or priority to over 50s with a medical need)
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Level access shower
- Scheme Manager and alarm

Rent £93.27 per week

JENNER ROAD, BARRY



H4U Reference 213592
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement with a medical priority
- Three-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Level access shower
- Gardens

Rent £88.05 per week including water charges

NEWHOUSE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1100589
Suitable for applicants over 55 with two-bed need or meeting the maximum occupancy requirement and those in receipt of pension credit
- Two-bedroom first floor flat
- Central heating & double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £96.58 per week

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 1082877
Suitable for applicants over 55 (or over 50 with a medical need)
- Studio apartment
- First floor with lift
- Central heating & double glazing
- Scheme Manager and alarm

Rent £104.32 per week including alarm charges

PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 221408
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor (steps down)
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £85.85 per week including water charges

SEVERN AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 222658
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 with a medical priority – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating & double glazing
- Comunity alarm

Rent £96.34 per week including alarm and water charges

ST MARYS AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 122509
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Downstairs bathroom
- Gardens

Rent £105.71 per week

WARWICK WAY, BARRY

H4U Reference 227505
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £102.96 per week including water and alarm charges

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 228250
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor (steps up)
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £89.20 per week including water charges

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.
Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view homes available immediately
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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Advertisers please note : deadline for Classified Section is 5pm Monday (to appear in the following week's edition). Telephone 01446 774484. email: samantha.miller@tindlenews.co.uk

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Family Notices

OLNEY
David Owen

Peacefully at home, after a long illness. David, cherished husband of Tess, loving father of Andrew, Peter, Gareth and Anne; respected and loved father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather.

To be received into St Helens Roman Catholic Church at 6pm on Tuesday, January 12. Requiem Mass at 12.30pm on Wednesday, January 13, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Hospice Penarth and Llandough Haematology R&D Fund 5903. RIP.

For all enquiries please contact A.G. Adams & Son.

STEPHENS
Henry William Knighton

Died on 22nd December at his home in Dinas Powys. Husband of the late Liz, father of Emma & John & grandfather of his children.

Funeral service to be held at Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, CF62 9PX on Friday, 15th January 2016 at 11am.

No flowers or black ties please. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Ty Hafan Hospice.

All enquires to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel (029) 2051 4627

JONES
Dilys Irene May

Peacefully in her sleep at the Iorwerth Jones Care Home, Cardiff on December 23rd. Dilys, formerly of St Andrews Road, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of the late Norman, much loved mum of Kevin and Christopher, mother-in-law of Joanne and Ann. Adored nan of Stacey, Natasha, Curtis, Nadine and Neil, and great-nan of Kayden, Marshal, Maximus and Tristan.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorioum, Barry on Thursday, January 14th at 1pm. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

PIMM
David

Peacefully at home on December 21. Dave, well known window cleaner within Barry. Much loved husband to Julie, a loving dad, bampy, and great bampy who will be greatly missed. Also a special brother and uncle.

David is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry, until his service at their Windsor Road Chapel (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Wednesday, January 13 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Immediate family floral tributes only, donations if desired may be made at the service to support Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice in Wales.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

THOMAS
Peter Theophilus

Suddenly on December 17 at UHW, Cardiff, Peter of Peterston-s-Ely, beloved husband of Maryrose, a dearly loved father of Daniel and Anna, father-in-law of Vanessa, much loved Grancha of Ollie, Leila, Millie and Jacob.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday January 11, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Velindre Hospital c/o J. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

ORCHARD
Craig Anthony (Orch)

Suddenly on December 25, Craig of Llantwit Major. Beloved son of Peter and Janet, dearly loved brother of Peter and Rhian and a much loved uncle of Dylan, Ewan, Carys, Tegan and Iestyn.

He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the service on Monday, January 11 in St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm.

CUMMINS
Ann Kathleen "Annie"

Peacefully on Christmas Eve at Llandough Hospital, surrounded by her loving family – Ann, dearly loved wife to Alan and an adored mum to Justine and Nathan. Cherished grandmother of Clementine, Scarlett, Bebe, Millie, Coco and Eloise.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and cherished her.

Ann is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at St Helens RC Church, Barry on Tuesday, January 12 at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired may be made at the service or via Ann's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support the work of local charity TY HAPUS, which was inspired by Annie. Please wear something bright and beautiful to reflect Annie's spirit. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis, 01446 407962.

CHISLETT
Kathleen Mary (née Carthy)

Peacefully in her sleep on December 21 at College Fields Nursing Home at the age of 101. Kathleen, devoted wife to the late James, much loved mum of Kathleen, Peter, Michael, Frances and their families.

She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Kathleen is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her Requiem Mass at Merthyr Dyfan Church, Merthyr Dyfan Lane, Barry on Monday, January 11 at 2.30pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Immediate family flowers only, donations if desired may be made via the funeral director in aid of SENSE or SCOPE in memory of Kathleen.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis, 01446 407962.

JENKINS
John Stuart
(aged 91 of Cowbridge)

Retired Midland Bank Manager, widow of Mary, father of Sarah and Jo. Partner of Mair and brother of the late Norman. Also, sadly missed by Mair's three daughters.

Funeral service Thursday, January 14th at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 2pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only.

BELLION
Paul

Peacefully on December 17 at the University Hospital Of Wales – Paul, well known for his time employed at BP Chemicals, Barry. Devoted husband to Anne and much loved dad of Rachel, Samantha and Richard. Cherished grampy of Natalie, Samuel, Ethan, Olivia and Cory.

He will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends.

Paul is being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at St Cadocs, Old Village Church, Cadoxton on Monday 18th January at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only, donations may be made at the service to support Marie Curie Care in memory of Paul.

ROGERS
Derek Miller "Rod"

Peacefully on December 26 at Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth - Rod, formerly of Nant-y-Moel, Bridgend. Devoted husband to June, loving dad to Ticia, Richard, Robert, Tina, Jane and David, cherished grampy to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Rod will be dearly missed by all his family and many friends.

Resting at Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at their Windsor Road Chapel (Opposite the Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Tuesday, January 12 at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth in memory of Rod.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

McCARTHY
Pamela Joyce (née Butler)

Unexpectedly on December 26, Pam of Blaenavon and formerly of Llantwit Major, aged 62. Beloved daughter of the late Ken and Joyce, wife of Tony, sister of Chris and Julie and aunt to Sam and Jamie.

Pam will be sadly missed by all her friends and family.

Funeral service in St Peters Church, Blaenavon on January 15 at 1.45pm, followed by service at Cwmbran Crematorium at 3pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan.

EVANS
Philip (Ev's)
Formerly of Barry Road & Llantwit Major

Peacefully on December 27th, after a short illness, father, brother and uncle. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, January 15th at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent to Marie Curie, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

Acknowledgements

BOARD
John Allan

Mary and family of the late John Board of Penmark wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness during their loss. We would also like to thank the staff at Llandough Hospital for their care and compassion shown to John during his illness.

Special thanks go to Rev Malcolm Davies for the heartwarming service and to W James & Sons for their professional help with the funeral arrangements.

TAYLOR
Gerald

Viv and the family would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and sympathy following Gerald's passing.

They would also like to thank all who attended the funeral service, with special thanks to the Reverend Huw Butler for his comforting service.

In loving memory of

DAVID JENKINS
Ystradowen

Gwyneth and family would like to express their sincere gratitude for the many cards, messages of comfort and charity donations they have received.

Many thanks to all involved at this extremely difficult time.

We were overwhelmed to see so many friends and family at the service.

Thank you all for your support.

Birthdays

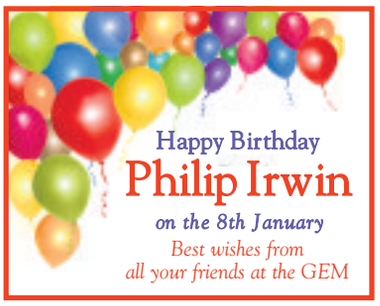
DEN PARSONS

wishing you a very **Happy Birthday** for Monday 4th January

Thank you for everything you do for your girls and Michigan!

With all our love & appreciation.

You know who we are!! Xx



Anniversary

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern I Neil Tipples do hereby give notice that I have applied to the licensing authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at 87 Court Road, Barry, CF63 1ET known as T & N stores.

The application is for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises Monday – Saturday 07.00 – 21.00 Sunday 09.00 – 21.00.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry. CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.

Date 21 December 2015.

Public Notice

MOIRA ANN RUTH HEWITT
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 6 Maes Lindys, Rhoose, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3LN who died on 21/07/2015 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 15/3/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Primary pupils spread festive cheer around town

Scenes from the Golau Caredig visit – the children with their headteacher, Mrs Newman.

SPREADING festive cheer within the local community was the order of the day for Gladstone primary pupils during the last week of term before the Christmas break.

At the beginning of the week, Gladstone celebrated the start of its new partnership with Golau Caredig, as reported in last week's GEM, with the nursery children performing their Christmas concert and members of the school choir singing a selection of songs to the delighted residents.

The next day, the infant and junior choirs had a wonderful time at Asda, singing Christmas carols and songs to entertain both the shoppers in the store and their proud parents.

Later in the week, the children again sang and danced at the YMCA Hub for Tysor O Le, a day service for adults with learning and physical disabilities.

Headteacher Caroline Newman commented: "At Gladstone, we are very proud of our strong community links. It is wonderful to share the talent of our children with the people of Barry, especially at this special time of year."

Bridge club's results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for January 4 were : 1st John Evans & Steve Burgoyne 67.71%; 2nd Debbie & Simon Richards 64.79%; 3rd Irene Thomas & Graham Jones 58.96%.

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AM joins swimmers for a New Year dip in briny for Mencap

INTREPID swimmers Fi Rodgers and Emma Sullivan were joined for the Barry Island New Year's Day Swim to raise money for Mencap by the Vale AM, Jane Hutt.

She has backed the charity for many years and there was a special message this year to support the campaign and advocacy project which includes Barry's Sian Rodgers as a key team member.

The AM reported: "It was quite a challenge, but the strength of friendship and support on the beach as we charged into the waves three times was fantastic. It was great to take the plunge to support Mencap Cymru!"

Merchant ends year on high

MERCHANT Of Milan, a seven-year-old bay gelding, ended 2015 on a high note for Kenfig Hill trainer John Flint when landing the the handicap steeplechase at Warwick on New Year's Eve.

Merchant Of Milan, a 11-2 chance, formerly trained by Brendon Powell, was racing for the first time for Flint and was ridden by Tom O'Brien. But it was a close finish as the always prominent Merchant Of Milan won by just a short head from I Am Colin.

BRIAN LEE

Sports stars head to Vale

FORMER WBO middleweight and WBC super middleweight champion of the world Nigel Benn will be heading to the Vale Sports Arena in 2016 as a host of top stars are set to entertain guests in various sports dinners.

Guests will enjoy a three course meal, Q and A, speeches, auctions and much more in fun and enjoyable action packed evenings with John Barnes, Craig Bellamy and Andrew Cole, before Benn visits on June 18.

Paul Gascoigne will speak to guests in October about his career with Newcastle FC, Tottenham FC playing in Italy with Lazio and of course that memorable World Cup in 1990 in Italy in his first sports dinner in Wales.

For more information please email petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.pg10coaching.co.uk.

PG

WILF'S A WALKING FOOTBALL DREAM!

WALKING Football began in 2011 and has proved hugely popular in helping both men and women extend their playing years, return to the game, or even make a belated start.

It's all about letting the ball do the work and walking fast when you need to - running will cost you a free-kick!

New regular venues for walking football sprang up at the rate of one a day in 2015 and although Wales was slow to take it up, there are now 14 places to play. Most sessions are for the over 50s but age-restrictions do vary and the oldest player in the UK is 83!

Wilf Frith (53) is a Llantwit Major resident and has been attending the Cardiff City Foundation group on Thursday afternoons but is also welcoming interest for starting up a weekly group locally.

He said: "It's great exercise, very friendly and social but competitive rather than rough, just encouraging of everyone to improve week by week.

"The players are all so delighted to be able to play football again and can't get enough of it. I'd love to get a group started in Llantwit Major, it only need be four-aside or so to start with."

If you're aged 45 or over and are interested in playing, contact *wilf@shekicks.net* or call him on 01446 792738. For general information and contacts, visit *www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk*.

WF

Barry RFC lottery starts this weekend!

SADLY, all games involving Barry RFC teams were cancelled last weekend due to the weather.

This weekend Barry are due to meet Dowlais, who are challenging near the top of the league, and won the home fixture earlier in the season with Barry's performance that day being one to forget, although things have changed dramatically since then.

Weather-permitting, the game will kick off at 2.30pm.

Following the game, the new Barry Rugby Club Lottery will be launched with the first draw for the £1,000 jackpot being made.

Various methods of payment are available, whether you choose to pay weekly, monthly or annually, so don't miss out - you have to be in it to win it!

Details are available from the bar or a member of the committee.

Should the jackpot not be won, 50 per cent of the previous week's sales will be added to the prize fund - good luck!

AJ

Zumba exercise

LOOKING to get into shape for the new year? Would you like to feel fitter?

KPC Youth and Community (off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, Bridgend CF33 6AB) are running a new exercise/Zumba class on Tuesday mornings from 9am – 10am. No fee, but a voluntary contribution is appreciated: limited creche spaces at SPLICE, which need to be pre-booked before the session with Alison on 01656 749219.

To book a place in the class, phone 01656 749219/745399.

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...

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62 HONDA CRV 2.2 Diesel Automatic In met silver, 20,000 miles, 4x4, full leather **£15,995**
62 AUDI A4 2 Litre Diesel Technik 6 Speed in red with black leather, 64,000 miles, 1 owner .. REDUCED BY £1000 TO **£12,995**
54 VW Transporter 2.5 (130) TDI L/W/B In silver, too many options to list **£11,995**
62 VW Golf 1.6 TDi Match 5-Dr In white, 41,000 mile diesel hatch **£9,995**
59 MERCEDES C180 SE Blue Efficiency Automatic In met-grey, 35,000 miles **£9,995**
03 PORSCHE Cayenne 4.5 V8 Tiptronic 'S' In silver, full black leather, 69,000 miles, 22" alloys, colour coded s/roof sat-nav etc **£9,995**
61 NISSAN Qashqai 1.6 Acenta In black, 33,000 miles, very nice example **£9,495**
13 CITROEN DS3 1.6 Diesel Style In white, 38,000 miles, low running costs.....**£8,495**
65 PEUGEOT 108 Active 5-Dr In white, delivery mileage .....REDUCED BY £500 TO **£7,995**
63 FIAT 500 L 1.4 Easy 5-Dr In white, 14,000 miles, superb throughout **£7,995**
62 VW Polo 1.2 Match 5-Dr In red, 20,000 miles, 1 owner, superb throughout.....**£7,995**
62 CITROEN D53 1.6 Style Plus 3-Dr In white with black roof, 33,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,995**
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55 AUDI A8 3.2 FSi (L.W.B.) SE Auto In black, with black leather, 85,000 miles, superb at.....**£6,995**
61 VAUXHALL Insignia 1.8 Exclusive In silverlake, 43,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,795**
13 MAZDA 2 TS 1.3TS 5-Dr In red, 17,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax **£6,495**
13 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-Dr In gunmetal grey, 16,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,495**
61 SUZUKI SX4 1.6 SZ4 In met-copper, 16,000 miles, very nice throughout **£6,495**
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14 PEUGEOT 107 (998cc) Allure 5-Dr In met silver, 17,000 miles.....**£5,995**
12 SKODA Fabia 1.2 SE 4-Dr In silver, 24,000 miles, very nice example at **£5,995**
11 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Tom-Tom Coupe In black, 36,000 miles, 1 owner **£5,995**
61 SKODA Fabia 1.2 TDi Greenlink 5-Dr In red, 50,000 miles, 1 owner, "Free road tax" **£5,995**
60 SKODA Fabia 1.6 Diesel SE 5-Dr In silver, 56,000 miles, low running costs.....**£5,695**
08 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Ghia Automatic In silver, 69,000 miles, diesel hatch **£5,695**
63 FIAT Punto 1.2 Pop 5-Dr In white, 11,000 miles, 1 owner,.....REDUCED BY £1000 TO **£5,495**
61 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDi Edge Econetic 5-Dr In silver, 71,000 miles, fantastic MPG & free road tax **£5,495**
09 FORD C-Max Zetec 2.0 TDi In met-blue, 69,000 miles, ideal family car at....REDUCED BY £500 TO **£5,495**
58 MINI ONE 1.4 (6-Speed) In pepper white, 70,000 miles with pan-roof, pepper pack etc **£5,495**
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62 KIA Picanto 1.0 5-Dr In black, 41,000 miles, 1 owner, free-road-tax **£4,995**
62 HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2 5-Dr In silver, 13,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,995**
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10 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 5-Dr In met-grey, 39,000 miles, low insurance.....**£4,995**
59 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr In electric blue, only 27,000 miles from new..... REDUCED BY £500 TO **£4,995**
09 TOYOTA IQ Auto VVTi 1.0cc In white, red leather suede trim, loads of extras, 22,000 miles **£4,995**
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07 FORD Fusion 1.6 Automatic Zetec In glacier blue, 33,000 miles with a/c **£3,995**
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Sharp-shooting Farmers land the GWC trophy

ON Tuesday December 15, the darts evening before the Christmas and New Year break, the aim was that all teams would gather at the Edmondes Arms to play in the GWC.

Unfortunately Llanharry and the Farmers Arms were not able to field full teams and the Highwayman Inn had transport problems, but still it was a good night of knock-out darts.

The GWC is a team game, each team playing six players in each leg. In the semi-finals the Edmondes A beat the Edmondes C 2-0 while the Farmers B (H&H) narrowly defeated the Six Bells Inn 2-1.

This year's champions are the Farmers B (H&H) who defeated the Edmondes A 3-0 in the final, a scoreline that did not fully reflect how close all the legs were.

Current league standings, at the half-way point in the season, are: Edmondes B (50 points), Llanharry (47), Highwayman Inn (45), Edmondes A (40), Edmondes C (36), Six Bells Inn (34), Farmers Arms (33), Farmers B (H&H) (27) and Old Post Ladies (12).

The first darts matches of 2016 will be played on Tuesday January 12, when a full programme of league matches will be played.

Llanharry hosts the Six Bells Inn, the Farmers B (H&H) hosts the Farmers Arms, the Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondes C and the Old Post Ladies hosts the Edmondes A. The Edmondes B do not have a game.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at *cowbridgedarts@gmail.com*, up-to-date information can be found on the website: *www.darts.apsn.co.uk*.

PJT

Boule team celebrates end of season

Llanmaes boule players with mascot, Meg.

THE Llanmaes Boule team had an enjoyable season despite the indifferent weather.

They were able to play most Friday evenings on their pitch in the grounds of the St Cattwg's Village Hall.

Friendly matches were played with Vale village teams including those from Llancarfan and Michaelson le Pit and others are planned for 2016.

A few days before Christmas, Coun Jackie Simpson presented Jeff Smith of Llanmaes with a trophy for the individual champion for 2015.

The team champions were from Keyline, Llandow, who were captained by Lee Holloway and Ben Drew. They were supported by team members Sean Clement, Kevin Beaumont, John Phipps, Gary Rzepka, Sion Phipps and Kierran Beresford.

Llanmaes captain, Coun Tim Fowler, thanked all who had played in 2015 with special thanks to the Keyline team led by Martin Watts Jones for their technical and practical support in the maintenance of the boules pitch; he looked forward to the 2016 season.

JR

Jeff Smith with Coun Jackie Simpson.

Cowbridge RFC victims to weather

Unfortunately, another match for Cowbridge first XV was lost to the weather on Saturday as the home fixture with Tylorstown was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

We still do not know who we will play on January 16 in the fourth round of the Swalec Bowl. Burry Port and Cardigan have been unable to fulfil the fixture due to the weather, but they have serious problems in that area with flooding so they have more pressing problems.

The youth however were able to play at Cardiff Arms Park on the 4G surface as a curtain raiser before the Cardiff v Llanelli match.

Their opponents were St Peters and it was a fine advert for youth rugby. St Peters started the better and pressed, but Cowbridge had a strong defence and chances of their own. St Peter did cross for a converted try bringing a half-time score of 7-0.

The second half was really owned by Cowbridge with tries for prop Craig Boxall, making a big impact off the bench after his return from injury, and impressive flanker James Holder in his first season in the youth.

St Peters added a penalty to bring the scores level and the teams went at it to the final whistle, 10-10 the final score.

The Cowbridge coaches were a little disappointed that some chances had not been finished off. It would be fair to say the game did not suffer in comparison with the main game with some great skills on display by both teams.

This Saturday, the first XV are away at Caerau Ely; the youth take on Mountain Ash at home, kick offs at 2.30pm.

RV/RK

Merlin works his magic at chess event

THE Welsh Junior Rapidplay event was held in December at Merthyr Tydfil.

Merlin Davies was the only Barry Chess Club member to take part in this event where he played in the under-12 section and finished equal third.

This was a very creditable result for Merlin who has seen his rapidplay rating increase year on year. He currently has a rating of 1259, an increase of 90 points during 2015.

In January 2014 his rating was under 1000 so this indicates a regular increase in his ability. Well done Merlin, keep it up.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PJ

Ath rearrange away fixtures

SUBJECT to final WRU confirmation, Bridgend Athletic team manager Paul Hearne has rearranged the following away postponed Championship fixtures:

Llanharan - Friday, February 12, kick off 7.15pm; Narberth - Saturday, March 12, kick off 1.30pm (TBC), prior to England v Wales game; Glynneath - Saturday, April 30, kick off 2.30pm

The Athletic have a bye in this Saturday's Swalec Cup fixtures and return to Championship League action on Saturday, January 16, with an away fixture at Beddau, before playing promotion contenders RGC1404 at the Bridgend Ford Brewery Field on Saturday, January 23.

AB

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